

## US Immigration Bill Cruising To Senate Passage

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Sweeping U.S. immigration legislation cruised toward passage in the Senate on Wednesday, but Republicans in the House of Representatives pursued a different approach that cracks



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. updates reporters on the pace of the immigration reform bill on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

down on millions living in the United States illegally rather than offering them a chance at citizenship. Presidential politics took a more prominent role as Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican and potential 2016 White House contender, tried to reassure fellow conservatives that many criticisms of the Senate bill, which he helped write in a rare bipartisan effort, are "just not true." The White House-backed Senate bill was on track for passage by Thursday or Friday. President Barack Obama would like to have an immigration bill passed by Congress so he can point to a major legislative success in the first year of his second term. Immigration is one area in which both major political parties have managed to find common ground in a bitterly divisive Congress. Republicans turned to immigration reform after losing badly in last year's presidential election as Obama benefited from a growing Hispanic vote.

Continued on Page 3

# Supreme Sea Change



*Justices bolster gay marriage with 2 major rulings*

Charlotte Brooks, left, kisses her partner Charlotte D'Ooge, development director for the American Civil Liberties Union, during a celebration rally in Jackson Square in New Orleans, after two Supreme Court decisions supporting gay rights were handed down, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

**Adam Liptak**

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**WASHINGTON** - In a pair of major victories for the gay rights movement, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that married same-sex couples were entitled to federal benefits and, by declining to decide a case from Cali-

fornia, effectively allowed same-sex marriages there. The rulings leave in place laws banning same-sex marriage around the nation, and the court declined to say whether there was a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. But in clearing the way for same-sex marriage in California,

the nation's most populous state, the court effectively increased to 13 the number of states that allow it. The decisions will only intensify the fast-moving debate over same-sex marriage, and the clash in the Supreme Court reflected one around the nation. The ruling striking down the

federal Defense of Marriage Act will immediately extend many benefits to couples in the states where same-sex marriage is legal, and it will give the Obama administration the ability to broaden other benefits through executive actions.

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# Berlin, world marks 50 years of Kennedy's famous speech

**BERLIN (AP)** — Berlin on Wednesday celebrated the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's famed "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech — a pledge of support to the divided city on the Cold War's front line that still resonates in a much-changed world.

Kennedy made his speech during a several-hour trip to West Berlin on June 26, 1963, nearly two years after communist East Germany cut the city in half by building the Berlin Wall and amid concern that America might abandon the Cold War outpost.

The "freedom bell" at the former West Berlin city hall, where Kennedy spoke to a crowd of some 300,000, tolled to mark Wednesday's anniversary ahead of a ceremony that featured students from Berlin's John F. Kennedy School reading excerpts from the speech in German and English.

Egon Bahr, 91, then an aide to West Berlin mayor Willy Brandt and later one of West Germany's most prominent politicians, recalled the "explosive applause" that greeted Kennedy's "I am a Berliner" declaration.

"It matched the feelings, the hopes and the expectations of Berliners," Bahr said. "They knew instinctively, 'we can feel safe after this sentence.'" Kennedy's declaration has become a symbol of strong German-U.S. ties, and President Barack Obama evoked it when he spoke last week at the city's Brandenburg Gate, which in 1963 stood on the communist side of the wall.

Even today, "U.S. presidents ... can feel at home in this city," Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit said. Still, he alluded to the tensions that preceded Kennedy's euphoric reception.



**Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit delivers a speech at the Schoeneberg city hall in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, June 26, 2013. Berlin is celebrating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's famed "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech — a pledge of support to the divided city on the Cold War's front line that still resonates in a much-changed world.**

(AP Photo/dpa, Ole Spata)

Many Berliners wondered why the Americans hadn't prevented the building of the wall and used their power to reverse it, he said. "People

in the divided city were desperate and angry. They feared that the Western powers would back down and give up West Berlin."

## Activists say death toll in Syria now tops 100K

**SARAH EL DEEB**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The civil war in Syria has now killed more than 100,000 people, a grim new estimate Wednesday that comes at a time when the conflict is spreading beyond its borders and hopes are fading for a settlement to end the bloodshed.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has been tracking the death toll through a network of activists in the country, said most of the 100,191 killed in the last 27 months were combatants.

The regime losses were estimated at nearly 43,000, including pro-government militias and 169 fighters from the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah group — a recent entrant in the conflict.

The Observatory said 36,661 of the dead are civilians. Recorded deaths among the rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad reached more than 18,000, including 2,518 foreign fighters.

Observatory director Rami Abdul-Rahman said he sus-



**A boy named Ahmed mourns his father, Abdulaziz Abu Ahmed Khrer, who was killed by a Syrian army sniper, during his funeral in Idlib, northern Syria. More than 100,000 people have been killed since the start of Syria's conflict over two years ago, an activist group said Wednesday.**

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

pected that the toll actually was higher, since neither side has been totally forthcoming about its losses.

The United Nations recently estimated that 93,000 people were killed between March 2011, when the crisis started, and the end of April 2013, concurring with Abdul-Rahman that the actual toll is likely much higher.

The Syrian government has not given a death toll. State media published the names of the government's dead in the first months of the crisis, but then stopped publishing its losses after the opposition became an armed insurgency. Abdul-Rahman said that the group's tally of military deaths is based on information from medical sources, records obtained by the group from state agencies and activists' own count of funerals in government-held areas of the country. Other sources are the activist videos showing soldiers who were killed in rebel areas and later identified. The new estimate comes at a time when hopes for peace talks are fading. The U.N.'s special envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, said Tuesday an international conference proposed by Russia and the U.S. will not take place until later in the summer, partly because of opposition disarray.

Regime forces are pushing into rebel-held areas in an attempt to secure the seat of Assad's power in the capital of Damascus and along the Mediterranean coast in the heartland of the Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam to which Assad belongs.

The offensive, along with new reports that Assad has used chemical weapons in 10 different incidents in the conflict, also prompted Washington and its allies to declare they have decided to arm the rebels.



## APNewsBreak: US boss held in China says deal finally reached

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — A U.S. company boss held hostage by his Chinese workers for nearly a week says an agreement has been reached to set him free, and he expects to leave his Beijing plant later Thursday.

Chip Starnes told The Associated Press early Thursday that a deal had been reached to pay the dozens of workers who had demanded generous severance packages — even though they weren't being laid off.

Some workers had said that when they saw equipment being packed up and itemized for shipping to India last week they feared the whole medical supply plant was moving. Some said they were owed unpaid salary.

Starnes, a co-owner of Florida-based Specialty Medical Supplies, said he had been forced to give in to their demands. He summed up the past several days as "humiliating, embarrassing, saddened." During his time as hostage, he spoke with reporters through a barred window of his office where he spent much of his time.

"We have transferred our funds from the U.S.," he said Thursday by phone. "I am basically free to go when the funds hit the account here of the company." He declined to say how much.

Starnes said he planned to get back to business and rehire some of the workers who had been holding him. "We're going to take Thursday off to let the dust settle, and we're going to be rehiring a lot of the previous workers on new contracts as of Friday," he said. The workers and their representatives could not immediately be reached.

It is not rare in China for managers to be held by workers demanding back pay or other benefits, often from their Chinese owners.

□

## Justices bolster gay marriage with 2 major rulings

Continued from front

The case concerning California's ban on same-sex marriage, Proposition 8, was decided on technical grounds, with the majority saying that it was not properly before the court. Because officials in California had declined to appeal a trial court's decision against them and because the proponents of Proposition 8 were not entitled to step into the state's shoes to appeal the decision, the court said, it was powerless to issue a decision. That left in place a trial court victory for two same-sex couples who had sought to marry. The decision on the federal law was 5-4, with Justice Anthony M. Kennedy writing the majority opinion. He was joined by the four members of the court's liberal wing.

"The federal statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and injure those whom the State, by its marriage laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity," Kennedy wrote. "By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute is in violation of the Fifth Amendment."

He said the law was motivated by a desire to harm gay and lesbian couples

and their families, demeaning the "moral and sexual choices" of such couples and humiliating "tens of thousands of children now being raised by same-sex couples."

The constitutional basis for striking down the law was not entirely clear, as it had elements of federalism, equal protection and due process. Kennedy said the law's basic flaw was in its "deprivation of the equal liberty of persons that is protected by the Fifth Amendment."

He added that the ruling applied only to marriages in states that allow gay and

lesbian couples to marry.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who read a withering dissent from the bench, said that last declaration took "real cheek."

"By formally declaring anyone opposed to same-sex marriage an enemy of human decency," Scalia said, "the majority arms well every challenger to a state law restricting marriage to its traditional definition."

Exactly 10 years ago, Scalia issued a similar dissent in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down laws making gay sex a crime. He predicted that the ruling would lead to the legal recogni-

tion of same-sex marriage, and he turned out to be right.

The court's four more conservative justices — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., Scalia and justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. — issued three dissents between them in the case on the federal law. They differed in some of their rationales and predictions, but all agreed that the court should not have heard the case and that the law, which passed with bipartisan support and which President Bill Clinton signed, was constitutional.

□



Plaintiffs in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the California Proposition 8 case, react on steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, Wednesday, June 26, 2013, after justices cleared the way for the resumption of same-sex marriage in California. From left are Jeff Zarrillo and his partner Paul Katami, attorney David Boies, and Sandy Stier and her partner Kris Perry.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

## US immigration bill cruising to Senate passage

Continued from front

The Senate legislation includes numerous steps to prevent future illegal immigration, while offering a chance at citizenship for millions living in the country illegally.

It provides for 20,000 new Border Patrol agents, requires the completion of 700 miles (1,226 kilometers) of fencing along the border with Mexico and requires an array of high-tech devices be deployed to secure that border.

Businesses would be re-

quired to check on the legal status of prospective employees.

The government would be ordered to install a high-tech system to check on the comings and goings of foreigners at selected international airports in the United States.

Other provisions would expand the number of visas for highly skilled workers relied upon by the technology industry. A separate program would be established for lower-skilled workers, and farm workers would be admitted under a temporary program.

The legislation was drafted by four Democrats and four Republicans who met privately for months to produce a rare bipartisan compromise.

In the House, an attempt at a bipartisan deal faltered, and majority Republicans began moving ahead on legislation tailored to the wishes of conservatives and vehemently opposed by Obama's Democrats. One of the bills approved by the House Judiciary Committee makes it a new crime to remain in the country without legal status. It also allows state and

local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, an attempt to apprehend more immigrants living in the United States illegally. It encourages those living in the United States unlawfully to depart voluntarily. With attention beginning to shift to the House, Rep. John Fleming said House Speaker John Boehner, a fellow Republican, had assured party members they will vote on bills being written in the House. "We are not going to take up the Senate bill," Fleming said, quoting the speaker. □



## In Zimmerman trial: Residents of housing complex testify

Lizette Alvarez

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**SANFORD, Fla.** - Residents who saw or heard slices of the confrontation leading to Trayvon Martin's death last year at a housing complex took the stand in the George Zimmerman trial Wednesday as prosecutors tried to portray the defendant as the aggressor that

that conclusion over time after she saw photos of Martin on television, an opinion she later softened under cross-examination. "After seeing the news, the top was bigger than the bottom," Manalo said, adding, "I believe it was Zimmerman, comparing the size of their body." She also said that after the

both witnesses by telling the jury that the women were making assumptions, and nothing else. During cross-examination, the witnesses acknowledged that it was too dark to see faces and that they could see only bodies, or "shadows," as Manalo called them during past interviews with law enforce-



**Witness Rachel Jeantel testifies during the trial of George Zimmerman, who is accused of second-degree murder trial for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, in Sanford, Fla., June 26, 2013. Jeantel was on the phone with Martin moments before he was shot by Zimmerman after an encounter on Feb. 26, 2012.**

(Jacob Langston/Pool via The New York Times)

night.

One resident of the Retreat at Twin Lakes, the town house development where Zimmerman lived and Martin was staying as a guest, testified that she believed the softer, higher-pitched voice she heard crying for help belonged to Martin. "In my, opinion, I truly believe, particularly the second yell for help, it was like a yelp, it was excruciating," said the resident, Jayne Surdyka, a former teacher who said she heard a scuffle from her upstairs back window. "I really felt it was a boy's voice."

A second resident, Jeannee Manalo, testified that she believed that Zimmerman, in her view the larger person of the two, was on top of Martin as both lay on the ground, struggling. Manalo said she came to

struggle the person on the top was the one who stood up. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder in the Feb. 26, 2012, shooting death of Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old high school student. He told the police that he shot Martin in self-defense after the teenager knocked him to the ground, straddled him, punched him in the face and repeatedly slammed his head into the pavement. Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, had earlier called a police nonemergency line to report that he had a suspicious person - later determined to be Martin - under observation.

Defense lawyers moved quickly to try to punch holes in the testimony of

ment officials. Manalo said she saw the figures from a sliding-glass door that led to a courtyard.

Manalo, in particular, wavered in her testimony. Mark O'Mara, Zimmerman's lawyer, inquired about the photographs she saw that led her to conclude that Zimmerman was on top of Martin.

He showed her a copy of a widely circulated photo of Martin in a hoodie - a photo O'Mara stressed was only of Martin's face - two photos of Martin in a football uniform and one of him in a red T-shirt. Those photographs were taken when Martin was younger than 17.

Manalo acknowledged that those were the photos she had seen on the news and that Martin looked younger than 17 in them. □

## Q&A ON THE NEWS

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**Q:** How do chill bumps occur, like when watching something scary? It seems involuntary and unconscious. What's the brain doing?

-- Don Varn, Conyers, Ga.

**A:** Chill bumps, also called goose bumps or goose pimples, occur as a flight-or-fight reaction in humans. Adrenaline is produced when humans feel stress or experience strong emotions, such as fear or anger, according to an article on ScientificAmerican.com.

The body's reaction causes the arrector pili muscles to contract and the surrounding area to protrude. That forces hair to stand erect.

Animals experience the same thing, such as when a cat's hair stands up on its back when it feels threatened, or when a porcupine raises its quills. People also might get chill bumps when they think about a significant event in their lives, listen to patriotic music or when they're cold. In animals, chill bumps cause hair to expand when they're cold, which creates added insulation.

**Q:** Did his time in prison cause Nelson Mandela's health to deteriorate? How long did he spend in prison?

-- Eddie Webster, Douglasville, Ga.

**A:** Mandela, the former president of South Africa who led the country's anti-apartheid movement, has a lung infection and has been in serious, but stable condition at a Pretoria hospital. He is 94.

Mandela had tuberculosis during his 27 years of imprisonment under South Africa's white racist government and is susceptible to respiratory problems, The Associated Press reported. Tuberculosis killed his father.

Mandela has had several medical procedures in the past 20 years, including cataract surgery in 1994, prostate treatment in 2001 and abdominal surgery in 2012.

He also was treated for the recurring lung infection in March.

**Q:** What possible rationalization would warrant President Obama and his family's trip to sub-Saharan Africa at a cost of possibly \$100 million? Where is the sequester?

Geraldine Dunne, Johns Creek, Ga.

**A:** Obama's trip -- which is scheduled to include one night in Dakar, Senegal, two nights in Johannesburg, a night in Cape Town and one in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania -- is overdue because the president hasn't visited sub-Saharan Africa since 2009, the White House said.

The "emerging democracies on the itinerary are crucial partners in regional security conflicts," Ben Rhodes, the deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, told The Washington Post.

The paper reported the trip could cost between \$60 million and \$100 million, coming up with the figure by estimating the costs of previous African trips.

President Bill Clinton's 1998 trip to six African nations cost at least \$42.7 million, the Post reported.

President George W. Bush went to Africa in both 2003 and 2008, taking wife Laura on both trips.

The Secret Service, which is in charge of the president's security, will send hundreds of agents to Africa in advance of the trip despite having to cut \$84 million from its budget, which included canceling White House tours. Michelle Obama, who visited Africa in 2011, is accompanying the president on this trip, and will attend separate events, which adds to the logistical challenges.

This trip requires 56 support vehicles -- including 14 limos which have to be airlifted to Africa, U.S. fighter jets and a hospital on a nearby aircraft carrier or amphibious ship. □



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## Texas speech on abortion bill becomes a sensation



Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, left, trying to filibuster an abortion bill, reacts as time expires in Austin, Texas.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

CHRIS TOMLINSON

JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas state senator who stood and spoke for hours against some of the country's toughest proposed abortion restrictions quickly became a political superstar in pink running shoes. But the governor made sure Wednesday that the fight isn't over.

Lawmaker Wendy Davis needed last-minute help from shrieking supporters to run out the clock on the special session of the state Legislature and kill the bill, but her old-fashioned filibuster speech earned her widespread praise — including a salute from President Barack Obama.

But Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday called for the Texas Legislature to meet in a second special session July 1 to pass the abortion restrictions. The Republican governor can call as many 30-day extra sessions as he likes.

Davis, 50, was on her feet for more than 12 hours Tuesday — actively speaking most of that time while obeying rules against not sitting, leaning or taking breaks for meals or the restroom — in a marathon speech seeking to block a bill that would close nearly every abortion clinic in the nation's second-largest state.

As a midnight deadline loomed and the rare Democrat in a heavily Republi-

can state continued to talk, political junkies from the U.S. and elsewhere tuned in via Internet, and Davis' followers on Twitter ballooned from around 1,200 to more than 79,000.

Suddenly, photos of the running shoes were everywhere, and #StandWith-Wendy was trending. Obama's official Twitter account posted: "Something special is happening in Austin tonight."

Davis' speech ultimately lasted about 11 hours before Republicans complained she had strayed off topic and cut her off. But that action prompted a lengthy debate and deafening protests from hundreds of abortion rights activists in the gallery that

spilled past the midnight deadline.

"Thanks to the powerful voices of thousands of Texans, #SB5 is dead," Davis tweeted Wednesday morning. "An incredible victory for Texas women and those who love them." The bill would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy — a move other conservative-leaning states are making as they try to challenge the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal.

The bill also would close almost every abortion clinic in Texas, a vast state of 26 million people. A woman living along the Mexico border or in West Texas would have to drive hun-

dreds of miles (kilometers) to obtain an abortion if the law passes. In addition, the bill's provision that abortions be performed at surgical centers means only five of Texas' 42 abortion clinics are currently designated to remain in operation.

An avid runner and cyclist, Davis was in good shape for the physical challenge of standing and talking for nearly half a day.

Because the rules didn't allow her to sit down, her chair was removed. Davis, who at one point fought tears while reading testimony from women opposed to the bill, shifted her weight from hip to hip and paced around her desk to stay sharp as the hours ticked by. □

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## Houston tries prostitute rehab instead of jail

**RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI**

**Associated Press**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Tricia Chambers began her life heavily dependent on heroin and methadone. From there, she was peddled into child pornography, and by 9 she had a full-fledged career in prostitution, alongside her mother.

Now 42, Chambers is getting what she believes to be her first real chance — in a downtown Houston cellblock.

There, in stark contrast to Chambers and the other orange-clad inmates, is Kathryn Griffin Grinan — a former prostitute who now dons a business suit and heels as she transforms her nonprofit, We've Been There Done That, into a taxpayer-funded program that is teaming up with law enforcement and the court system to reform these women.

"You can be healed from this. You just got to be ready and want to," Griffin said, recalling how she went from being a college student to the lowest of street walkers. "We just prostitutes ... nobody cares about us. Well, because I was there and I felt that same way and I broke it, I knew that I could share it and break it in others."

The program has been so successful that Texas this session passed into law a bill that requires other large cities to create their own. Adopted at birth, Griffin had a 28-year-old boyfriend at age 14. Two years later, she found herself among the youngest in a Houston college, racing to keep up with the drugs, alcohol and sex. In 1983, she joined funk singer Rick James' drug-infused "Cold Blooded" tour, developing a \$30,000-a-month cocaine habit.

When the tour ended and the drugs disappeared, Griffin turned to prostitution — from call girl to mistress and finally to doped-up street hooker — to pay for the habit. After entering and failing nearly two dozen drug rehab programs, Griffin got clean 10 years ago through Houston's drug court. From that she learned what worked, and understood what didn't, and she tailor made a curriculum for prostitutes.

"There are those who have

among the cities nationwide that have set up special courts to deal with child prostitutes by putting them in recovery programs. Many, they found, had been victims of sexual or physical abuse. Some were born to mothers who were drug addicts and prostitutes themselves. In Houston, the court, called GIRLS or Growing Independence and Restoring Lives, was loosely modeled after other specialty courts, such as the drug court that has

relapsed so far, though it is too early to measure success. The program is unique not only because it is court-ordered — unlike other private projects — but also treats the women after their release, sometimes for up to two years.

District Court Judge Maria T. Jackson has sentenced 20 women to the program, working closely with Griffin to monitor their treatment. "Society has not been addressing the problems of the prostitutes and the women



**Kathryn Griffin Grinan, center, and "her girls" dance during their meeting in a Harris County cell Tuesday, June 4, 2013, in Houston. Griffin founded and leads the prostitution rehabilitation program We've Been There Done That.**

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

secrets," Griffin explained. "They just hold on to it, and it keeps making them sicker and sicker and sicker and I go in ... and go deep and clean it out." Houston, Dallas and several other Texas cities began changing how they treated prostitutes after the state Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that girls 14 and under could not be prosecuted for prostitution. The ruling has been a game changer, for juveniles and adults.

Dallas and Houston are

successfully reformed 80 percent of the nearly 400 people who have graduated since it started in 2003, including Griffin.

In September, Harris County law enforcement focused on adults, teaming with Griffin. Judges began in January sentencing women with numerous misdemeanor prostitution convictions to her program. Working with a \$40,000 a year budget, more than 30 women have been sentenced to the program, and only one or two have

who come in for possession of controlled substance and theft. They've been locking them up when they should be dealing with the other, the underlying issues, which are the majority of these girls come from abused homes," Jackson said.

"They are the victims and they've been treated like criminals," she added. When they're released, Griffin first takes the women shopping, "cause all they have is hooker clothes," she said. □

## Poll finds rural voters divided on federal role

**STEVEN YACCINO**

**© 2013 New York Times**

Voters in some of the nation's most rural areas, long considered a mainstay of small-government sentiments, have mixed views about the role federal policies should play in their lives, according to polling released Tuesday by the Center for Rural Affairs.

Surveying more than 800 small-town and countryside residents across the Midwest, the Great Plains and the South, the rural advocacy group found that people were evenly divided about whether Washington should make more effort to strengthen rural communities or whether such involvement "will do more harm than good."

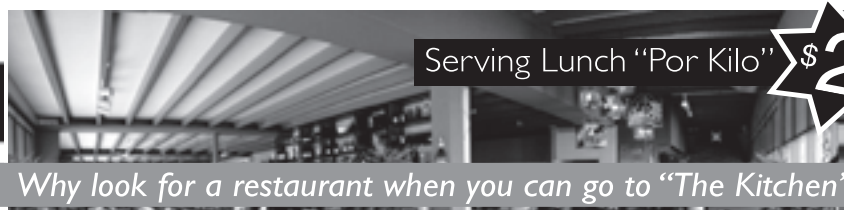
The polling, released just days after a farm bill failed to pass the House of Representatives, paints a nuanced portrait of rural America, one with a strong belief in reducing government spending and regulations, but increasingly in want of more effective policies that promote job training, infrastructure investment and education programs for low-income children outside of cities.

"Rural voters get put in a box of being uniformly anti-government," said Chuck Hassebrook, executive director of the center, based in Nebraska. "But they are not slaves to any ideology." Forty-two percent of those polled said they were Republicans; 25 percent Democrats; and 25 percent independent. With the economy rebounding slowly in some areas, 59 percent said the federal government had at least some responsibility to help the "working poor advance economically." □



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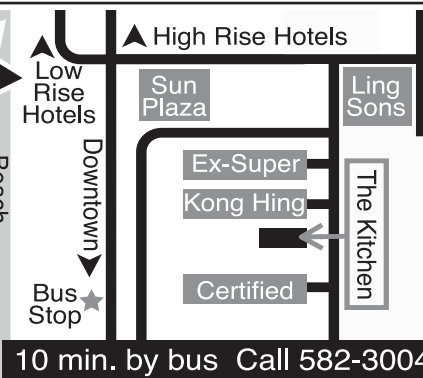


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### US Financial Front:

## Slower US growth might lead Fed to delay tapering

C. S. RUGABER  
M. CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy may not be strong enough for the Federal Reserve to slow its bond purchases later this year.

That's the takeaway from economists after the government cut its estimate Wednesday of growth in the January-March quarter to a 1.8 percent annual rate, sharply below its previous estimate of a 2.4 percent rate. The main reason: Consumers spent less than previously thought.

Most economists think growth will remain low as consumers and businesses continue to adjust to federal spending cuts and higher taxes. Growth is expected to reach an annual rate of only about 2 percent in the April-June quarter. Even if the economy improves slightly, it would be hard to meet the Fed's forecast of 2.3 percent to 2.6 percent growth for 2013.

Chairman Ben Bernanke rattled investors last week when he said the Fed will likely slow its bond-buying this year if the economy continues to strengthen. The bond purchases have helped keep interest rates low. Bernanke added that if the economy weakens, the Fed won't hesitate to delay its pullback or even step up its bond purchases again. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said that if the April-June quarter proves tepid, the Fed will be looking at three straight quarters of subpar growth.

"The Fed won't taper (its bond purchases) under these conditions," Lee said. "They need convinc-



Actress Katrina Bowden shops for Crest products at Duane Reade in New York, Wednesday, June 19, 2013. The U.S. economy may not be strong enough for the Federal Reserve to slow its bond purchases later this year - the main reason being that consumers spent less than previously thought.

(Photo by Diane Bondareff/AP Images)

ing signs of a pickup."

Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisers, said he suspects the Fed will wait until next year to slow its bond buying. Like most economists, Naroff thinks growth will pick up in the October-December quarter and strengthen in 2014.

"If the Fed doesn't take notice of this revision to growth, they would run the risk of being perceived as largely clueless about the economy," Naroff said.

Stocks surged Wednesday, a sign that many investors also suspect the economy may prove too weak for

the Fed to begin scaling back its stimulus later this year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 173 points in late-afternoon trading, and broader stock indexes also surged.

Most of the revision to last quarter's growth was due to a decline in consumer spending to an annual rate of 2.6 percent. Though that pace is the fastest in two years, it's sharply below the 3.4 percent rate previously estimated.

The downgraded estimate of growth was due in large part to weaker spending on services, such as travel, legal services, health care

and utilities. Spending on long-lasting manufactured goods, considered a barometer of consumers' confidence in the economy, was stronger than previously estimated.

Some economists said the lower estimate suggests that an increase in Social Security taxes that took effect this year might be squeezing consumers more than expected. The tax increase has reduced take-home pay for most Americans. A person earning \$50,000 a year has roughly \$1,000 less to spend. A high-earning couple has up to \$4,500 less.

"There was still acceleration in the growth of consumer spending — just not as much," said Paul Edelstein, director of financial services at IHS Global Insight.

The government's revisions

also pointed to less export growth and weaker business investment spending, due mainly to less spending on buildings than previously estimated.

For each quarter, the government issues three estimates of growth as it continues to collect increasingly precise data on the nation's gross domestic product. GDP reflects the economy's total output of goods and services, from haircuts to aircraft carriers. In Wednesday's third and final estimate of first-quarter growth, for example, the government lowered its figure for consumer spending based on newly available data from a quarterly Census Bureau survey of services spending.

Edelstein cautioned that the government has trouble calculating spending on services. □

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## South Africa:

### President Zuma cancels trip amid Mandela worry

C. TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

South Africa's president visited a gravely ill Nelson Mandela in the hospital on Wednesday night, and canceled a visit planned for the next day to Mozambique, an indication of heightened concern over the deteriorating health of the man widely considered the father of the country. President Jacob Zuma found 94-year-old Mandela to still be in critical condition during the 10 p.m. visit and was briefed by doctors "who are still doing everything they can to ensure his well-being," Zuma's office said in a statement. It said the president decided to cancel a visit to Maputo, the Mozambican capital, on Thursday, where he was to attend a meeting on regional investment.

As worries over Mandela mounted, Mac Maharaj, the presidential spokesman, declined to comment on media reports that the former president and anti-apartheid leader was on life support systems in the Pretoria hospital where he was taken June 8 to be treated for what the government said was a recurring lung infection. "I cannot comment on the clinical details of these reports because that would breach the confidentiality of the doctor/patient relationship," Maharaj said in an interview with South Africa's Radio 702.

South Africans were torn on Wednesday between the desire not to lose Mandela, who defined the as-

pirations of so many of his compatriots, and resignation that the beloved former prisoner and president is approaching the end of his life.

The sense of anticipation

In recent days, international leaders, celebrities, athletes and others have praised Mandela, not just as the man who steered South Africa through its tense transition from white

pain, and wish that a miracle might happen, that he recovers again, and he becomes his old self again," he said. "But at the same time they are aware there is a limit what miracles you



South African President Jacob Zuma addresses the 10th annual meeting of the National Education Health & Allied Workers in Johannesburg, Wednesday June 26, 2013. During his speech, Zuma said Nelson Mandela was "still critical" and that we must "pray every minute".

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

and foreboding about Mandela's fate has grown since late Sunday, when the South African government declared that the condition of the statesman had deteriorated.

A tide of emotional tributes has built on social media and in hand-written messages and flowers laid outside the hospital and Mandela's home.

On Wednesday, about 20 children from a day care center posted a hand-made card outside the hospital and recited a poem.

"Hold on, old man," was one of the lines in the Zulu poem, according to the South African Press Association.

racist rule to democracy two decades ago, but as a universal symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation.

In South Africa's Eastern Cape province, where Mandela grew up, a traditional leader said the time was near for Mandela, who is also known by his clan name, Madiba.

"I am of the view that if Madiba is no longer enjoying life, and is on life support systems, and is not appreciating what is happening around him, I think the good Lord should take the decision to put him out of his suffering," said the tribal chief, Phathekile Holomisa. "I did speak to two of his family members, and of course, they are in a lot of

can have."

For many South Africans, Mandela's decline is a far more personal matter, echoing the protracted and emotionally draining process of losing one of their own elderly relatives. One nugget of wisdom about the arc of life and death came from Matthew Rusznyah, a 9-year-old boy who stopped outside Mandela's home in the Johannesburg neighborhood of Houghton to show his appreciation.

"We came because we care about Mandela being sick, and we wish we could put a stop to it, like snap our fingers," he said. "But we can't. It's how life works." □

## Qatar's new emir: No major policy changes

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Qatar's new ruler emphasized his commitment to the Gulf nation's policies Wednesday, suggesting no major changes in its role as a leading backer for Syrian rebels, even as activists say the civil war's death has surpassed 100,000.

In his first public address since taking a day earlier, the 33-year-old emir, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, said the shift in leadership "doesn't mean the challenges and the tests at hand have changed."

Sheik Tamim's decisions will be closely watched for any signs of new priorities in a country that has used vast energy riches to surge on the world stage as a regional political powerhouse. It provided key support for rebel forces in Libya in 2011 and is now a main sponsor of Syrian rebel forces seeking to topple the regime of Bashar Assad.

The new emir mentioned Qatar's support for Palestinians — whose rival factions opened reconciliation talks brokered by Qatar last year — while giving indirect but clear signals that its Syria policies will remain in force by saying Qatar backs the "aspirations of Arab people to live in freedom."

Qatar last week hosted a Syrian opposition conference whose participants included U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Qatar is a hub for the anti-Assad political leadership and played a central role in March in crafting an Arab League decision to transfer Syria's seat to opposition forces. □



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## Ahead of Kerry visit, Israel approves new settlements

**JOSEF FEDERMAN**  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel on Wednesday announced plans to build dozens of new homes in a contentious east Jerusalem settlement, casting a cloud over an upcoming peace mission by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Kerry has been shuttling between Israel and the Palestinians in recent months in search of a formula to restart long-stalled peace talks. Kerry has urged both sides to avoid provocative moves that could undermine his work.

Talks have been stalled for nearly five years. The Palestinians have demanded a halt in settlement construction before returning to the negotiating table. The Palestinians claim the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas captured by Israel in 1967, as parts of a future state and consider Israeli settlement construction to be a sign of bad faith.

Well over 500,000 Israelis now live in the settlements, making it increasingly difficult to partition the land between two states. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the fate of settlements is a matter for negotiations, and talks should begin without any preconditions. Brachie Sprung, spokeswoman for the Jerusalem municipality, said the project in the Har Homa area of the city was approved long ago and that Wednesday's decision granted final permits for construction to actually begin. She said a total of 69 homes were to be built, and noted that Wednesday's committee meeting also approved 22 new homes in Arab neighborhoods of the city.

In a statement, the municipality said the construction

was part of a master plan to ease a housing crunch faced by all city residents. "There is no change in the municipality's policy in the last 40 years. We continue to build in all of the city's neighborhoods according to a master plan. In the next few years, tens of thousands of residential units are expected to be built throughout the city for all ethnic groups," it said. After capturing east Jerusalem, Israel annexed the area in a move that has never been internationally recognized. To solidify its control of the area, it has ringed east Jerusalem with a string of developments.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat condemned the Israeli move. "Such behavior proves that the Israeli government is determined to undermine Secretary Kerry's efforts at every level," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said Kerry is "very focused" on getting talks back on track. "He's going to go take stock with these leaders and see if some of the hard decisions have been made," Ventrell said. Kerry is making his fifth visit to the region since taking office early this year, and so far there have been no signs of progress. Kerry is expected to present a proposed framework for negotiations in the coming weeks, perhaps even on this visit. In the absence of peace talks, the Palestinians have been threatening to join various U.N. bodies where they can press their campaign against Israel since winning upgraded observer status in the world body last year. Israel bitterly opposes the campaign, saying it is a way to circumvent the negotiating process. □



A construction worker works at a site of a new housing unit in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa. On Wednesday, June 26, 2013, an Israeli planning committee has given the final approval for construction of dozens of new homes in a settlement in east Jerusalem. The decision could cast a cloud over the upcoming mission of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. (AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

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## Obama in Senegal for first leg of Africa trip

**JULIE PACE**

**AP White House Correspondent**

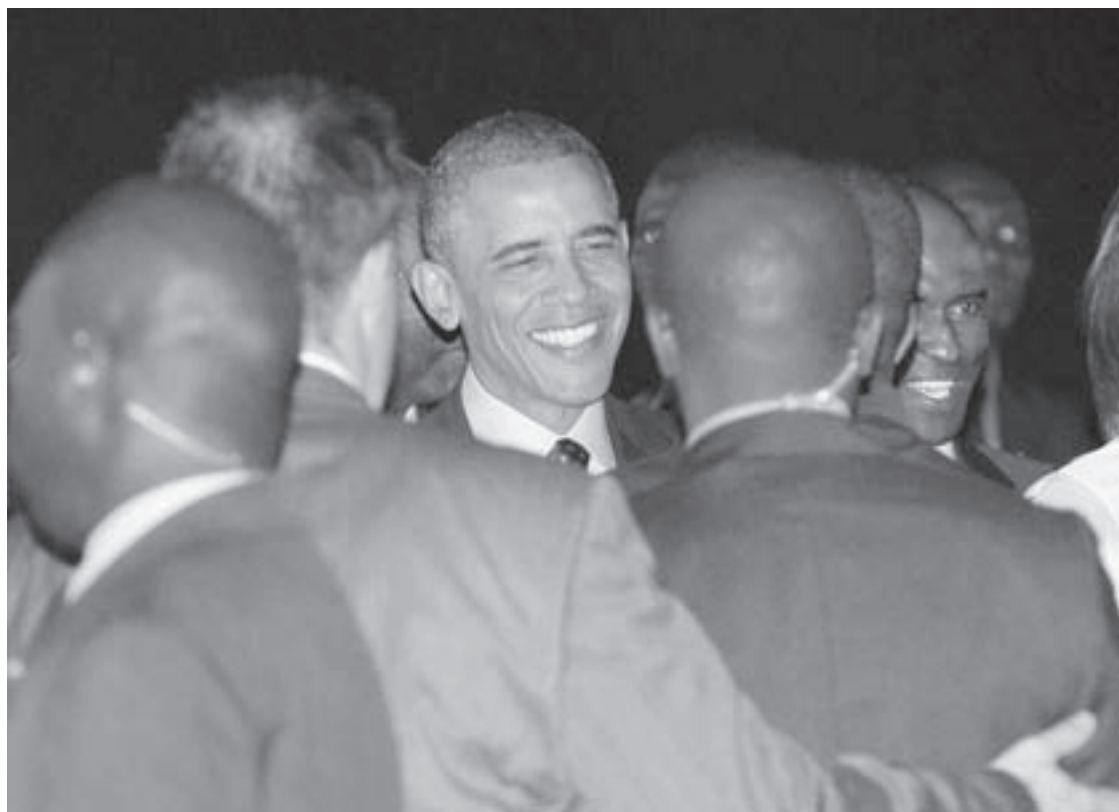
**DAKAR, Senegal (AP)** — President Barack Obama opened a weeklong trip to Africa on Wednesday, a three-country visit aimed

Obama's father was born in Kenya and several of his relatives still live there. But despite his family ties to the continent, Obama spent just one day in Africa during his first four years in office and has focused

U.S. businesses.

The White House defended the purpose of the trip despite its low policy expectations.

"Presidential trips to regions of the world like Africa bring enormous benefits



**U.S. President Barack Obama smiles after arriving at Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, in Dakar, Senegal. Obama is visiting Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania on a week long trip.**

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

at overcoming disappointment on the continent over the first black U.S. president's lack of personal engagement during his first term.

However, the highly anticipated trip threatens to be overshadowed by the deteriorating health of beloved former South African President Nelson Mandela. Air Force One touched down in the Senegalese capital of Dakar on Wednesday evening. The president, who is traveling with first lady Michelle Obama and daughters Malia and Sasha, is also scheduled to visit South Africa and Tanzania.

The president is expected to be greeted warmly during his trip, despite the underlying sense of disappointment. American flags dotted the roadways as Obama's motorcade sped through this coastal city, and signs welcoming Obama and bearing his picture hung on homes and businesses.

instead on strengthening U.S. ties with Asia and Latin America.

"Africans were very excited when President Obama was elected and they expected deeper engagement than in the past, both in regard to policy and also in terms of actual visits to the continent, given the president's African heritage," said Mwangi Kimenyi, an Africa analyst at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. "Africans have been gradually disappointed, especially when they look at the focus on Africa by previous presidents, in particular President Clinton and President George W. Bush, who did quite a bit there."

Few major policy announcements are expected during Obama's trip. Instead, the president will focus on promoting democratic institutions, boosting opportunities for Africa's vast youth population and promoting the continent as a growing market for

in terms of our relationship with the countries visited and the countries in the region," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters traveling with Obama on Air Force One. "The trip itself will not be the end point of our engagement, but will enhance it, deepen it and further it."

The president will make two stops at sights that highlight the continent's harsh racial history: Senegal's Goree Island, which was the center of Atlantic slave trade and Robben Island, the apartheid-era prison in South Africa where Mandela spent 18 years of his 27 years in prison. The White House is closely monitoring Mandela's health, which has added a degree of uncertainty to Obama's travel itinerary. The 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader has been hospitalized for about three weeks with a reoccurring lung infection and South African officials have now deemed his condition critical. □

## For leaders of China and South Korea, a meeting of 'old friends'

**JANE PERLEZ**

**© 2013 New York Times**

**BEIJING** - President Park Geun-hye of South Korea will begin a state visit here Thursday with an elaborate banquet and a highly anticipated meeting with China's leader, President Xi Jinping, who has called her "an old friend."

That Park speaks Chinese and has shown an admiration for Chinese culture helps.

The contrast with the furtive, hastily arranged appearances in Beijing recently of two North Korean officials, a senior military officer and a diplomat, who were scolded by their Chinese hosts for North Korea's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons, could not be more stark.

And Park, 61, the daughter of an anti-Communist dictator, is coming to China before the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, who is supposed to be China's ally.

At the top of the agenda for her visit, according to both sides, will be North Korea and, specifically, how South Korea and China can together push Kim toward giving up his nuclear weapons.

Few people expect concrete steps in that direction. But the symbolism of a frustrated China, which is North Korea's benefactor, joining hands with South Korea, an ally of the United States, in calling for a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons will send a clear and unpleasant message to the North, analysts say.

"When the leaders of the two countries meet reporters, they will say they have reached some consensus on denuclearization of the peninsula," predicted Wang Junsheng, professor of Asian affairs at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

That would be a demonstration of a new solidarity in the relationship between China and South Korea. The previous president of South Korea, Lee Myung-bak, did not have China's

support, Wang said.

Indeed, as a leader well regarded by President Barack Obama - Park made her first overseas visit to Washington after assuming the presidency this year - she could well become a channel between the United States and China on North Korea, Washington experts say.

How Xi and Park could bridge the gap over possible talks with the North will probably be at the center of their discussions, said Sun Zhe, director of the Center for U.S.-China Relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"The Chinese leaders will try to tell her that China is firm on denuclearization and will encourage a return to six-party talks," Sun said. "We need to have some more joint South Korea and China efforts. Strengthening the South Korean-China relationship will send a clear message to North Korea."

The visit will not only be about how to tame North Korea.

Park will be accompanied by scores of South Korean businesspeople, among them the titans of the companies that sell popular South Korean brands of smartphones, cars and flat-screen televisions in huge quantities to China. China is South Korea's leading trading partner, and South Korea imports to China overtook Japan's last September, according to the Singaporean DBS Bank.

If there was some question about the personal chemistry between Xi and Obama at their summit meeting in California this month, there seems little doubt of the connection between Xi and Park.

They first met in 2005, when Xi was the Communist Party leader of Zhejiang province on China's coast, where South Korean companies have invested heavily. They chatted about the rural development projects started by her father, Park Chung-hee, in the 1970s, according to accounts in the South Korean press. □





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## Pope names commission of inquiry into Vatican bank

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Francis' new commission of inquiry into the troubled Vatican bank has a brand new money-laundering case to look into: How a Holy See monsignor withdrew more than a half-million euros in charitable donations from the bank without any flags being raised, walked out of Vatican City with the cash, and then used the money to pay off his personal mortgage. The case of Monsignor Nunzio Scarano is just one example of how lax norms and incompetence,

if not more serious shortcomings at the Institute for Religious Works, or IOR, have sullied the Vatican's reputation in international financial circles and made it a target for Francis' clean-up and reform campaign.

Francis on Wednesday announced the creation of a commission of inquiry to

look into the IOR's activities and legal status "to allow for a better harmonization with the universal mission of the Apostolic See," ac-

cis has intervened to get information out of the IOR, a secretive institution best known for the scandals it has caused the Vatican.



**Pope Francis delivers his speech in St. Peter's square at the Vatican during his weekly general audience Wednesday, June 26, 2013. On Wednesday Pope Francis named a commission of inquiry to look into the activities of the troubled Vatican bank amid a new money-laundering investigation and continued questions about the secretive institution.**

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

cording to the legal document he signed creating it. It was the second time in as many weeks that Fran-

On June 15, he filled a key vacancy in the bank's governing structure, tapping a trusted prelate to

be his eyes inside the bank. Francis named five people to the commission, including two Americans: Monsignor Peter Wells, a top official in the Vatican secretariat of state, and Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard law professor, former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See and current president of a pontifical academy. American cardinals were among the most vocal in demanding a wholesale reform of the Vatican bureaucracy — and the Vatican bank — in the meetings outlining the priorities for the new pope in the run-up to the March conclave that elected Francis. The demands were raised following revelations in leaked documents last year that told of dysfunction, petty turf wars and allegations of corruption in the Holy See's governance. Francis, who has made clear he has no patience for corruption and wants

a "poor" church, has already named a separate commission of cardinals to advise him on the broader question of reforming the Vatican bureaucracy as a whole.

The Vatican bank was founded in 1942 by Pope Pius XII to manage assets destined for religious or charitable works. Located in a tower just inside the gates of Vatican City, it also manages the pension system for the Vatican's thousands of employees. The bank commission's members have authority to gather documents, data and information about the bank's legal status and activities, even overriding normal secrecy rules to do so. Members can receive information from anyone in the Vatican bureaucracy as well as people who spontaneously volunteer information, and the commission can refer to outside advisers if necessary, according to the terms. □

## Carlos the Jackal loses appeal in French bombings

**PARIS (AP)** — The man known as Carlos the Jackal lost an appeal on Wednesday of his conviction in four bombings in France three decades ago that killed 11 people and wounded some 140.

A panel of judges in a special anti-terrorism court upheld his life sentence.

The flamboyant Venezuelan-born terrorist and self-proclaimed revolutionary, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also is serving a second life sentence for a triple murder in Paris in 1975.

The decision followed hours of deliberation, and Ramirez, true to form, made a several-hours-long final plea. The trial began

May 13.

Ramirez, who cuts a dapper style, was once one of the Cold War era's most wanted men. He has been jailed in France since 1994 when French agents whisked him out of Sudan in a sack.

Lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre said that neither she nor her client was surprised by the verdict.

She married Ramirez several years ago in a Muslim ceremony in prison in what she calls a "symbolic" union.

"He is very realistic and he knows very well that the French state won't give him normal justice," she said by telephone. "He has been condemned for life

one more time by French judges who are not independent (from the state)." The lawyer repeated her client's claim that some documents put before the court were faked and concrete evidence was lacking.

By his own count, Ramirez has killed at least 83 people, but he contended in the initial trial in 2011 that he had no role in the four bombings.

Two of the attacks took place in 1982, one on a Toulouse-Paris train and one in front of the Paris offices of an Arab-language newspaper. Two other bombings occurred on Dec. 31, 1983, one at a Marseille train station that killed two

people and another on a fast train in eastern France that killed three.

Coutant-Peyre was not present for much of the trial, protesting what she said was Venezuela's failure to honor a pledge for material and logistical help in Ramirez' defense, allegedly made by former Venezuelan President

Hugo Chavez, who praised Ramirez as a "revolutionary fighter." Chavez died in March. She claims he also promised to get him repatriated.

Ramirez began his life in terrorism in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and was also affiliated with extreme-left European terror groups. □

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# Brazil protesters, police clash near match

**TALES AZZONI**

**Associated Press**

**BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (AP)**

— Brazilian protesters and police clashed Wednesday near a stadium hosting a Confederations Cup soccer match, as thousands of demonstrators trying to march on the site were met by tear gas and rubber bullets.

Brazil's senate voted to increase penalties for those found guilty of corruption, responding to a key de-

mande for international tournaments. Mounted police and riot units maintained another security line about 1 kilometer (half-mile) from the stadium.

"The protesters started this when they tried to break through our outer barrier," said police Capt. Flavio Almeida. "We had no choice but to respond."

Two protesters were hurt, including a 21-year-old man who fell from an overpass and was in critical condi-

tion. Elsewhere in Brazil the situation was mostly calm, in part because Brazilian lawmakers were taking action to meet protesters' demands.

The senate on Wednesday approved legislation to ratchet up penalties for those found guilty of corruption and would take away the ability for a pardon, amnesty or bail for those convicted. The measure must be approved by the lower house before it's

a laundry list of causes including anger at high taxes, poor services and high World Cup spending, before coalescing around the issue of rampant government corruption.

It has become the largest eruption of public demonstrations Brazil has seen in two decades.

At many protests across Brazil in the past week, a sea of signs denounced the proposal to strip prosecutors of the ability to inves-

## Ecuador: Correa blasts coverage of Snowden case

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador's president said Wednesday that media coverage of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden is distracting the world from the surveillance programs that Snowden revealed.

President Rafael Correa made his strongest comments to date about the case on Twitter in response to a Washington Post editorial that referred to him as "the autocratic leader of tiny, impoverished Ecuador" and accused him of a double standard for welcoming a whistleblower while allegedly stifling critics at home. "They've managed to focus attention on Snowden and on the 'wicked' countries that 'support' him, making us forget the terrible things against the U.S. people and the whole world that he denounced." "The world order isn't only unjust, it's immoral," Correa continued, taking an aggressive new rhetorical tack on the case. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, threatened Ecuador's trade arrangements with the United States if it grants asylum to Snowden. Menendez urged Russia to hand him over to the United States.

"Edward Snowden is a fugitive who has endangered the national security of the United States. His actions merit prosecution, not praise," Menendez said in a statement. "Our government will not reward countries for bad behavior. If Snowden is granted asylum in Ecuador, I will lead the effort to prevent the renewal of Ecuador's duty-free access under GSP and will also make sure there is no chance for renewal of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act." The Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP, provides preferential duty-free entry for up to 5,000 products when imported from one of 127 designated beneficiary countries and territories, according to the U.S. Trade Representative. □



**A demonstrator holds a sign reading in Portuguese "Shame, four thousand policemen to repress demonstrators, Cup... What for? Down with repression" during protest in downtown of the Brasília, Brazil, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.**

**(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)**

mand made by protesters across the country.

Anti-government protesters in part angered by the billions spent in World Cup preparations picked up tear gas canisters and lobbed them back at police, along with a shower of rocks. A dense fog of the acrid gas enveloped the mass of protesters, who were about a mile (2 kilometers) away from the stadium where Brazil was playing Uruguay in a semi-final match of the warm-up tournament for next year's World Cup.

Police set up a 2-kilometer (1-mile) perimeter around the stadium, normal proce-

tion.

By the time the match ended in a 2-1 Brazil victory, most of the protesters had dispersed. In another area of Belo Horizonte, a group of masked young men shattered the windows of car showroom and set the shop on fire.

"We don't need the World Cup," said Leonardo Fabri, a 19-year-old protester. "We need education, we need better health services, a more humane police."

It's the latest protest to turn violent as Latin America's biggest country has been hit by nationwide protests since June 17.

signed into law.

The lower house late Tuesday voted 403-9 to drop a measure that would have limited the investigative powers of federal prosecutors, a bill that many feared would make it harder to prosecute official corruption.

"This movement scored a big victory by the killing" of that legislation, said Leila Marques, a 19-year-old protester in Brasília. "But it can't stop now. We have to do more to clean up corruption."

The wave of protests that hit Brazil began as opposition to transportation fare hikes, then expanded to

fight, known as the "PEC 37" measure. Many demonstrators vowed to keep returning to the streets until it was knocked down.

"The PEC 37 only served to protect the corrupt," said Aline Campos, a 29-year-old publicist at a recent protest in Brasília. "Society wants more effort to combat corruption, not less."

Federal prosecutors were behind the investigation into the so-called "mensalao" cash-for-votes scheme that came to light in 2005. It involved top aides of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva buying off members of congress to vote for their legislation. □





# Aruba's Freestyle Windsurfer Steven Max battles for gold in France and wins!

**ORANJESTAD/MARSEILLE** -

This year's IFCA Freestyle Youth World championship was once again held in France during the SOSH Freestyle Cup 2013, and once again the competitors came from far and all over the globe, including, Russia, Israel, Italy, Belgium and Aruba to compete for the most wanted title of Youth world-champion.

Day one started off with a promising but chilly breeze and competitors took to the water with great enthusiasm, which quickly turned in to disappointment as the wind died almost completely within the first heat and the competition had to be postponed.

Conditions did not get better on day two, leaving the frustrated sailors with lots of games and other windless water activities to do on an overall beautiful fun filled and sunny day, but sadly no windsurfing could be done, due to lack of wind. Day 3 brought no difference and tensions started to get higher, as these athlete's were getting restless and eager to show off their moves.

On Friday, day 3 the wind still did not return and the day was spend much like the days before, on land playing games and waiting for the wind to pick up.

All hopes were up and so was the wind the morning of day four as the Freestylers took to the water once again.

During the first double elimination Steven Max (15) climbed his way up to the top 4 position eliminating the 16 year old Italian Riccardo Marca and France's Sam Esteve (15) to face off Israel's champion Johnny Yagen, who managed to conquer the heat due to light winds which were in his advantage, while Steven could not pull out his big moves and he took second place.

During the rest of the day they were able to complete a double elimination, in which Steven had to win several heats to get back in the finals to face off Johnny again, winning this heat by landing amazing and high moves, one of them a "Punch", in the face of the Jury.

Alas in Steven's second attempt to conquer first place, during a very tight race, it was Johnny who went home with first place, taking advantage of the light wind conditions once again, which hampered Steven to do any power moves and he lost the first place position.

Leaving Steven frustrated, but very determined to do



better on the next and final day of competition, praying for more wind.

An early and windy start in the morning of day 5, got all competitors in a good mood, as they continued their battle under great conditions. Steven flew through the first heats, eliminating each and everyone, including yesterday's champion in the final heat, even though by then the wind had died considerably.

After a quick lunch off they went again, everyone ready to see who was going to be the overall winner of the final day's double elimination.

Again Johnny Yagen managed to go all the way to the finals to meet up with the champion of the day Steven Max, he needed to win twice to beat Steven, when just before the start of the final heat, disaster struck and Johnny was injured.

He was taken care of by the medics on site, but

luckily recovered quick enough to keep competing and after the "Makani-fin" Supersession, the battle continued.

Landing huge aerial moves and making good use of the 2 meter swell, Steven Max won the "Supersession" and the final against Johnny right after that, as well.

The decision was clear, the competition fierce and very close, but Steven Max scored just above Johnny, making him this year's Ju-

nior World Champion under 18, a great achievement once again for this youngster from Aruba.

Final results overall: 4th place Sam Esteve (France), 3rd place Kostya Smirnoff (Russia), 2nd Place Johnny Yagen (Israel), 1st Place Steven Max (Aruba).

Now on his way back home, Steven is looking forward to the Aruba Hi-Winds from 2nd-8th of August.

-Photos by: JP Cecchini, Kathleen Govaerts and Lucy Zuiderwijk. □





**Art for The Arts Fundraising event to support Sinfonia:**

# Belinda De Veer Artworks For Sale At Fundraiser On June 27



**ORANJESTAD, JUNE 20** - On Thursday June 27th renowned local artist Belinda de Veer will host a unique art exhibition & fundraising event at L'America Gallery, showcasing over twenty paintings she created over the past ten years. All artworks will be for sale at



deeply discounted prices, starting at 500 florins. These special prices are only available during the 'Art for The Arts' event on June 27th from 8 to 10 pm. Proceeds of this fundraising event will benefit a brand new foundation to support the arts and classical music, called Sinfonia. Sinfonia was recently founded by Belinda de Veer. During its first year Foundation Sinfonia will organize classical music concerts in De Veer's residence and atelier in Ponton. These con-

certs will take place every other month featuring local and international classical musicians. "It has been a lifetime dream to be able to open my house for the cause of arts and music. I started playing the piano at age nine and have been passionate about music ever since", De Veer states. "With Foundation Sinfonia I hope to inspire people and create easy access to classical music in the cosy setting of a private residence." The very first purchase of the foundation will be a baby grand piano. Another goal is to transform



rently takes classes with the award-winning pianist Armand Simon. De Veer attended art workshops at Ateliers '89 from 1989 - 1992 given by renowned art teachers from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam.

Since 2002 De Veer's artwork has been on display at many individual and group exhibitions, visited among others by members of Holland's and Monaco's royal families. Her paintings have been featured in several local and international publications. De Veer is also mother of two and currently divides her time between motherhood, her work in pharmacy and creative work at her atelier. Please visit Belinda de Veer's website for more information: [www.belindadeveer.com](http://www.belindadeveer.com)

L'America Gallery had a soft opening in November 2012 and officially opened its doors on June 13, 2013. L'America Gallery houses an art gallery, frame shop and art supply shop, all under one roof. A wide variety of art works from local artists, as well as artists from all over Latin America are for sale. A unique, not-for sale, private collection of Latin American art is on display at the gallery's own museum in the back of the building. L'America Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Starting June 29 the gallery is also open on Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm. The gallery is located right behind Kong Hing Super Center, next to Visser Trading in Italiastraat 24-A (Eagle). More information can be obtained at [www.lamericagallery.com](http://www.lamericagallery.com) or on Facebook. □



De Veer's residence into a multifunctional art house where a variety of artistic initiatives will be held. The art exhibition at L'America Gallery on June 27th showcases highlights of Belinda de Veer's established art career. This special art exhibition is open to all audiences with an interest in art. It will be a unique opportunity for art collectors and admirers of De Veer's work to obtain her paintings at greatly reduced prices. Artworks on display cover a period of ten years (2002-2012). Well known themes and symbols that appear in De Veer's artworks are gardens, flowers and the process of birth, expressing travel through life and human growth. Often phrases of De Veer's poetry and a unique use of earth colors complete her artwork. Belinda de Veer was born in Aruba. She earned a Doctor's degree in pharmacy in the USA. De Veer studied piano since she was 9 years old and cur-

**Beauty On The Beach**

*Kenna and Carolina Armstrong*

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.

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Renaissance Aruba hosts international press:

## DJ Chuckie talks 'Electric Festival', Play Foundation'

**ORANJESTAD**—In September Aruba will host the first edition of the 'Electronic Festival', a popular project of international DJ "DJ Chuckie". After the press conference organized by ATA, international press members had the opportunity to chat with "DJ Chuckie" in a closed circle at the Renaissance Aruba Resort regarding his exclusive presentation during the "Live Life to Discover", the launch of his foundation 'Play Foundation' and his latest project 'Electric Festival'.

This session was put together in a different way where the international press was invited to have dinner with DJ Chuckie and during dinner they had the opportunity to ask questions. The international press members were invited by Renaissance Aruba



Resort & Casino to cover the 'Global Day of Discovery' event which was organized simultaneously with 155 Renaissance hotels all over the world, with main attraction DJ Chuckie. During that particular day Renaissance Aruba Resort en-

couraged its guest to "Get out" of their hotel rooms and discover an exclusive musical performance by Rlife LIVE with DJ Chuckie. The international press members included, Mari Campos, one of Brazil's top three bloggers, founder of

the blog Pelo Mundo with more than 20,000 visitors from around the world and regular contributor to the blog for Viagem e Turismo Magazine. Also Gabriel Dias Founder of Brazil's top travel portal, Falando de Viagem with about 65,000

visitors per month. From Holland Marloes Orij who writes for 'De Telegraaf' the largest Dutch daily morning newspaper, with a daily circulation of approximately 529,000. She also writes for the online section "filmen en uitgaan" with 7,721,700 unique visitors a month. Also present from USA was the editor of Elektro-Daily which will take you behind the turntables into the lives of DJs, sharing their passion for the music, giving fans an all access backstage pass. White Raver Rafting Magazine was also present together with "VIBE" magazine founded by musical producer Quincy Jones and Canadian press was represented by Daanish Garda from Neon Tape-deck- music 'blog' that presents video sections and interviews. □

# BONUS



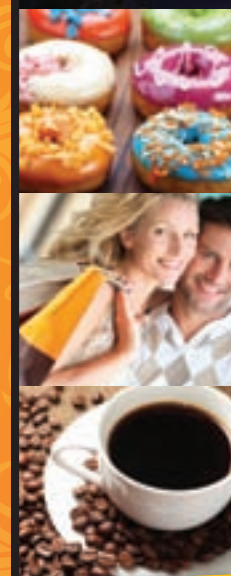
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# Fast Rental Karts at Bushiri Karting Speedway!

**EAGLE** - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill while on vacation, which is Bushiri Karting Speedway, a great outdoor Go karting Track with fast rental Go karts available for anyone to rent. The place is sur-



rounded with great ambience and racing fans can challenge each other any day! We also have a Sports Bar called Fuel Sports Bar & Grill with good food, pool & foosball tables, big screens and a full liquor bar for everyone to chill before, during & after their race! So now you can have fun with the whole family here at Bushiri Karting Speedway! "Race, Eat, Play & Watch the Game under one Roof"!

Since Bushiri Karting Speed-

way opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 4-stroke go karts to rent all year round and also the facility that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules.

We have 270cc 9 horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adults karts is 13 years & up. We also have 160cc 6 horse power Honda Engine Karts for kids of 7 till 12 years old.

Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You can receive a score sheet



to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba!

We have a Special this week: get \$3 off on your second race & 8 dollars off on your third race plus get a free soda at the Bar!

Those who would like to race can call for reservations at 583-5278 or pass by

at the track for an arrive-and-drive session open daily from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket.

More info: [www.bushirikarting.com](http://www.bushirikarting.com)



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.







## Hernandez is charged with Lloyd murder

MICHELLE R. SMITH  
Associated Press  
ATTLEBORO, Massachusetts  
(AP) — Professional football player Aaron Hernandez



Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, left, stands in Attleboro District Court Wednesday, June 26, in Attleboro, Mass. (AP Photo/Mike George)

was arrested Wednesday and charged with murder in the shooting death of a friend prosecutors say had angered the player at a nightclub a few days earlier by talking to the wrong people.

Hernandez, 23, was taken from his home in handcuffs just over a week after Boston semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd's bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park a mile away. Less than two hours after the arrest, the Patriots announced they had cut Hernandez, who signed a five-year contract last summer worth \$40 million.

Lloyd was a 27-year-old athlete with the Boston Bandits who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. He was shot multiple times on a secluded gravel road, authorities said.

Continued on Page 21

## Roger, Over And Out



Federer, Sharapova lose on wild day at Wimbledon

Roger Federer of Switzerland, back, looks to Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine after he lost in their Men's second round singles match at Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)  
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# Paulinho header sends Brazil to Confed Cup final

ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's players wept with joy inside the stadium, and Brazilian protesters were sprayed with tear gas outside it as the country's national football team reached the Confederations Cup final despite another wave of mass demonstrations on the streets. Brazil beat neighbors Uruguay 2-1 with an 86th minute header from Paulinho in a performance that failed to reach the commanding heights of earlier games. As thousands of anti-government protesters clashed with police nearby, inside the Mineirao Stadium, Brazil's footballers reached Sunday's final in Rio de Janeiro with a patchy display. Security was high at the semifinal as protesters, in part angered by the billions of dollars spent on World Cup preparations, targeted this high-profile semifinal in the latest in a series of demonstrations that have taken place in Brazil during the Confederations Cup. They were met by tear gas and rubber bullets during clashes with police, but the match itself was unaffected by the protests.

Protests have already been announced for Sunday's final at the Maracana Stadium.

"It's a new team and this is going to help us grow for the World Cup," Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar said. "We know that we can face a very difficult opponent (and win)."

Cesar prevented Uruguay from taking the lead in Belo Horizonte, saving a penalty kick from Uruguay striker Diego Forlan in the 13th minute. The save turned out to be decisive.

Just as they later did for the winner, Paulinho and Neymar combined to help set up Brazil's opener just before halftime.

Neymar brought down Paulinho's high ball and, after his initial shot was saved by goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, Fred pounced on the loose ball to score.

Although Edinson Cavani

seized on sloppy defending to equalize for Uruguay three minutes into the second half, Brazil finally started to click as an attacking force and now either Spain or Italy stand between the host nation and a third consecutive Confederations Cup title.

"We are not ready yet,"

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "We have to go through this, through all these situations so we can grow and evolve ... and reach the World Cup in better shape."

"What I have to show them is the progress that they made. This is how I make them self-confident," he

said.

With each victory, Scolari is raising expectations that Brazil can replicate its 2002 World Cup success under him and clinch the title for the sixth time in 2014.

"We played with our hearts," Scolari said, before sounding a note of caution: "Mainly, from the mid-

dle of the field onwards, we still lack a link there so we can have better chances to score."

Inside the stadium, animosity was directed from the start at Uruguay captain Diego Lugano, who enraged Brazil by accusing Neymar of diving on the eve of the match. □



**Brazil's Paulinho, right, scores his side's 2nd goal during the soccer Confederations Cup semifinal match between Brazil and Uruguay at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Eugenio Savio)

## England held to draw by Chile at U20 World Cup

ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Striker Harry Kane scored a second-half equalizer to earn England a 1-1 draw against Chile in the Under-20 World Cup on Wednesday.

Kane collected a pass from midfielder Ross Barkley in the 64th minute and beat goalkeeper Dario Melo with a low shot at the near post to give England its second point in Group E after drawing 2-2 against Iraq in its opener. It was a hard-fought result for coach Peter Taylor's team, which narrowly escaped defeat when Bryan Rabello's strike in the closing minutes hit the crossbar.

Nicolas Castillo had put Chile in front from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute with his second goal of the tournament. A late tackle by Daniel Potts brought down Chile winger Angelo Henriquez as he dribbled his way in from the right. Referee Alireza Faghani of Iran didn't whistle immediately, taking several seconds to make up his mind. It was the second penalty against England this tournament. After another foul, Potts later received his second yellow card of the competition and will miss England's decisive group match against Egypt on Saturday. Iraq was playing Egypt in the group's late

game on Wednesday.

England struggled to keep position in the first half and only created danger with two shots from well outside the area, with Barkley watching his effort go just wide while Kane's shot was saved by Melo. Chile remained in control for the early stages of the second half but failed to create clear chances. The South Americans then lost the plot after Kane's equalizer. England started to turn up the pressure and came close to scoring when substitute Alex Pritchard headed the ball straight at Melo from close range in the 82nd minute.

In Group F, Uruguay

bounced back from its opening defeat against Croatia to beat New Zealand 2-0 with goals from Giorgian De Arrascaeta and Nicolas Lopez.

After four minutes, De Arrascaeta slotted home a free kick from just outside the penalty box after he was fouled by New Zealand's Tim Payne.

Uruguay missed several opportunities to double the score before Lopez tucked home the rebound after his initial effort hit the post in the 75th.

Uzbekistan and Croatia, which have three points each in Group F, were playing each other later Wednesday. □



## Teixeira out for season, A-Rod drama calming

MIKE FITZPATRICK  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Mark Teixeira is out for the season. Brian Cashman regrets his outburst. Alex Rodriguez has a heart-to-heart with owner Hal Steinbrenner. Happy birthday, Derek Jeter.

On a wild day in Yankees land, with big news coming out of New York - and the weight room in Tampa, Fla. - baseball's most storied franchise paraded three prominent figures in front of a microphone at Yankee Stadium for 45 minutes worth of press conferences Wednesday to discuss a myriad of team issues.

Group therapy? Not really. Damage control? You bet. The most disappointing development for the Yankees concerned Teixeira, who will have season-ending surgery on his right wrist, probably early next week. The club announced that the switch-hitting first baseman had an MRI with dye contrast and team physician Dr. Christopher Ahmad determined that Teixeira's torn tendon sheath had not adequately healed. Three hand specialists concurred, and the two-time All-Star said he was told he should be 100 percent healthy six months after surgery.

"It's very tough, especially in a season where the team could probably use me," Teixeira said, batting second in the news conference lineup between manager Joe Girardi and Cashman. Teixeira was hurt while hitting off a tee March 5, when he was with the U.S. team at the World Baseball Classic. He made his season debut May 31 and got off to a strong start but came out of a game June 15 because of inflammation. He went back on the disabled list and did not respond to a cortisone shot. "I usually respond very well to cortisone shots," Teixeira said. "When it didn't work and it wasn't getting any better, I knew it was probably going to be bad news." □

## Lackey sharp as Red Sox beat Rockies 5-3

KEN POWTAK  
The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** -- John Lackey certainly looks and sounds fully recovered from elbow-ligament replacement surgery. It shows both on and off the mound. Lackey struck out a season-high 12 over seven strong innings and Daniel Nava drove in two runs, leading the Boston Red Sox to a 5-3 victory Wednesday and a sweep of the two-game series against the Colorado Rockies.

"Probably the strongest he's been all year," Boston manager John Farrell

said. "Outstanding fastball command, good power to it and a lot of strikes."

The 34-year old right-hander gave up two runs and eight hits without walking a batter. Mixing a fastball and slider most of the time, he threw 73 of 98 pitches for strikes.

Lackey (5-5), who missed all of last season rehabbing from the Tommy John surgery, struck out nine over the first four innings - getting three each in the first, second and fourth - while allowing Wilin Rosario's first-inning RBI single.

"I've been feeling pretty

good," Lackey said, often breaking into smiles and joking, a big change from his demeanor in his early days in Boston. "I still feel like I'm getting stronger. It was a process, a lot of work, I'm still building."

With the top two starters in the rotation - Jon Lester and Clay Buchholz - both going through tough stretches, Lackey knows he's been one to pitch in big games.

"Jon will be fine. Clay has done great. I'm not worried about those guys," he said. "I've been the guy that has gone first in play-

off games."

Lester has struggled after a strong start, losing three of his last four decisions. Buchholz is currently on the 15-day disabled with a neck strain.

Lackey had his 14th career double-digit strikeout game, first since Oct. 3, 2010.

"It speaks to where my stuff's at right now," he said of the strikeouts.

Shane Victorino had three hits and Dustin Pedroia added two for the Red Sox. Roy Oswalt (0-2), making his second start since being recalled from Double-A, allowed five runs and nine hits in six innings, striking out five and walking one.

Colorado's Michael Cuddeyer extended his hitting streak to 23 games with two solo homers, matching Dante Bichette's club-record set in 1995.

"The Red Sox are good at putting the ball in play and creating some things. It was a lot of contact, a lot of action, and I just think they found some holes early," Rockies manager Walt Weiss said. "I thought Roy settled in and made good use of his fastball as he went along. In the end, battled for us to give us six."

The Rockies finished a road trip in which they lost seven of nine.

New Boston closer Koji Uehara worked a perfect ninth for his second save. □



Boston Red Sox catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia throws to first to put out Colorado Rockies' Todd Helton, after a dropped third strike during the eighth inning of an interleague baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, June 26, 2013. The Red Sox won 5-3. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

## Mercer, Pirates beats Mariners for 6th win in row

CURTIS CRABTREE  
The Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** -- Another key hit by Jordy Mercer gave the Pittsburgh Pirates their season-high sixth straight win.

Mercer hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth inning and the Pirates beat the Seattle Mariners 4-2 on Wednesday.

Mercer has come up big for the Pirates in several clutch situations. He's batting .391 with runners in scoring position with a home run, six RBIs and three walks.

"I guess I have a knack for coming up with big hits in big spots," Mercer said.

The Pirates improved to 48-30 - they are 18 games over .500 for the first time since 1992, their last winning season. With the victory, Pittsburgh wraps up a 7-2 road trip to Cincinnati, Anaheim and Seattle.

"It was a good trip. Very good trip," manager Clint Hurdle said.

Neil Walker hit a two-run homer off Felix Hernandez to put Pittsburgh ahead in the fourth. Seattle tied it in the sixth on Raul Ibanez's team-leading 18th home run, and fourth in four games.

It was 2-all when Pedro Alvarez singled to lead off

the ninth inning against reliever Charlie Furbush (1-4) and advanced on a sacrifice bunt from Neil Walker. After a groundout by Gaby Sanchez, Travis Snider was intentionally walked. Mercer followed with an RBI single off Yoervis Medina, and the Pirates added an insurance run when a wild pitch on a third strike from Medina allowed Snider to score and Starling Marte to reach first base.

Mercer said he had a solid scouting report on Medina from the coaching staff and knew what to expect from the Mariners reliever. "I was just looking to see

something over the plate and put a good swing on it," Mercer said.

"I gained a little confidence from the previous at-bat before when I singled to right. Just let it get deep and drive it up the middle or the other way and it worked out."

Mark Melancon earned his second save of the season. Mike Zunino delivered a pinch-hit single and Nick Franklin singled to put a pair of runners on with two outs in the ninth, but Kyle Seager grounded out.

Vin Mazzaro (4-2) picked up the victory with two innings of scoreless relief. □



# Federer, Sharapova lose on wild day at Wimbledon

**HOWARD FENDRICH**

**The Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** -- As tumultuous a day as professional tennis has produced in its nearly half-century history ended in the most unforeseeable, unexplainable way of all: A second-round loss by Roger Federer at the All England Club.

The seven-time Wimbledon champion and 17-time Grand Slam champ shuffled off Centre Court with dusk approaching on the fortnight's first Wednesday, his head bowed, his streak of reaching at least the quarterfinals at a record 36 consecutive major tournaments snapped by a man ranked 116th.

His remarkable 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) defeat against Sergiy Stakhovsky marked Federer's earliest Grand Slam exit in a decade. He lost in the first round of the French Open on May 26, 2003, back before he owned a single trophy from any of the sport's most important sites.

"This is a setback, a disappointment, whatever you want to call it," said Federer, the defending champion. "Got to get over this one. Some haven't hurt this much, that's for sure."

He had plenty of company on a wild, wild Wednesday brimming with surprising results, a slew of injuries - and all manner of sliding and

tumbling on the revered grass courts, prompting questions about whether something made them more slippery.

Seven players left because of withdrawals or mid-match retirements, believed to be the most in a single day at a Grand Slam tournament in the 45-year Open era. Among that group: second-seeded Victoria Azarenka; sixth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga; 18th-seeded John Isner, who will forever be remembered for winning a 70-68 fifth set in the longest match ever; and Steve Darcis, the man who stunned 12-time major champion Rafael Nadal on Monday.

"Very black day," summed up 10th-seeded Marin Cilic, who said a bad left knee forced him to pull out of his match.

The third-seeded Federer simply was unable to derail Stakhovsky's serve-and-volley style, breaking the 27-year-old Ukrainian only once.

Still, there actually was a real chance for Federer to get back in the thick of things. Ahead 6-5 in the fourth, he held a set point as Stakhovsky served at 30-40. But Stakhovsky came up with this sequence: volley winner, 111 mph ace, serve-and-volley winner.

"I had my opportunities, had the foot in the door.

When I had the chance, I couldn't do it," said Federer, who is 122-18 on grass over his career, while Stakhovsky is 13-12. "It's very frustrating, very disappoint-

dropped to his back, then later bowed to the stadium's four sides. He sat in his sideline chair, purple Wimbledon towel draped over his head, as Federer quick-

namment.

"Today has been bizarre," said 17th-seeded Sloane Stephens of the U.S., who stuck around by winning her match 8-6 in the third



**Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine during their Men's second round singles match at Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.**

**(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)**

ing. I'm going to accept it and move forward from here. I have no choice."

In the closing tiebreaker, with spectators roaring after every point, Stakhovsky raced to a 5-2 lead, and the match ended with Federer pushing a backhand wide on a 13-stroke exchange. Stakhovsky

ly headed for the locker room. Stakhovsky peeked out and saw Federer leaving, then applauded right along with the fans' standing ovation.

"You're playing the guy and then you're playing his legend," Stakhovsky said. "You're playing two of them. When you're beating one, you still have the other one who is pressing you. You're saying, 'Am I about to beat him? Is it possible?'"

It was, and Federer was one of seven players who have been ranked No. 1 to depart the tournament in a span of about 8 1/2 hours. The others: Maria Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion, who lost 6-3, 6-4 to 131st-ranked Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal; Caroline Wozniacki; Ana Ivanovic; Jelena Jankovic; Azarenka; and Lleyton Hewitt, who won Wimbledon in 2002.

All told, five players who have combined to win 26 Grand Slam titles headed home, along with another three who have been the runner-up at a major tour-

set. "I don't know what's going on."

Look at it this way: Three days into the two-week tournament - merely half-way through the second round - a total of five of the 10 highest-seeded women are gone, as are four of the top 10 men.

The beneficiaries might very well be folks such as defending champion Serena Williams, who most figured might only be challenged in a potential final against Sharapova or Azarenka, and Andy Murray, whose path to Britain's first men's title in 77 years no longer can be blocked by Federer, Nadal or Tsonga. How, then, to decipher it all?

Let fly with far-flung conspiracy theories.

One hypothesis making the rounds: The grass is different because there is a new head groundsman at the All England Club, Neil Stubley (keep in mind, though, that he's been helping prepare the courts here for more than 15 years, albeit with a less distinguished title).□



**Maria Sharapova of Russia is attended to by a physiotherapist during her Women's second round singles match against Michelle Larcher De Brito of Portugal at Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, June 26, 2013.**

**(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)**



# Bruins F Bergeron being observed for lung puncture

The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** -- Patrice Bergeron has a punctured lung and is at a Boston-area hospital for observation. The Bruins forward was admitted Monday night, after Boston lost to Chicago, 3-2, in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final at TD Garden - a defeat which ended the season.

Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli and coach Claude Julien addressed Bergeron's status Wednesday, the same day they held exit interviews with the players.

"He played through all of this, and he was a warrior," Chiarelli said. "I can't say enough about his performance and what he did while being injured."

Bergeron was already slowed by injuries headed into Game 6. He was a question mark to even



Chicago Blackhawks center Michal Handzus (26), of Slovakia, shakes hands with Boston Bruins center Patrice Bergeron (37) after the Blackhawks beat the Bruins 3-2 in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Monday, June 24, 2013, in Boston.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

play due to a broken rib and torn cartilage. After not participating in the morning skate Monday, he appeared during warmups

and played in the loss. In the first period, though, he suffered a separated shoulder.

"After the game, obvi-

ously, he was in pain from his ribs and stuff like that, which is an automatic thing. The doctors said let's send him to the hospital for observation, so he went there," Julien said. "I think they did the right thing and the right job by sending him there."

"And then he just stayed." Bergeron had 10 goals and 32 points in the shortened

regular season, as well as nine and 15, respectively, in the postseason. Combined, he had a plus-26 rating this year as the Bruins finished second in the Northeast Division, and defeated the Maple Leafs, Rangers and Penguins to secure a second Eastern Conference title in three seasons.

"It was a challenge," Julien said. □

## Aaron Hernandez charged with murder

Continued from Page 17

Hernandez "drove the victim to that remote spot, and then he orchestrated his execution," prosecutor Bill McCauley said.

If convicted, Hernandez could get life in prison without parole.

"It is at bottom a circumstantial case. It is not a strong case," his attorney, Michael Fee, said at a court hearing during which Hernandez was ordered held without bail on murder charges and five weapons counts.

Lloyd's family members cried and hugged as the prosecutor outlined the killing. Two were so overcome with emotion that they had to leave the courtroom.

McCauley said the slaying stemmed from a night out at a Boston club called Rumor on June 14. He said Hernandez was upset about certain things, including that Lloyd had talked to some people Hernandez "had troubles with." The prosecutor did not elaborate.

Two days later, McCauley said, on the night of June 16, Hernandez texted two

friends from out of state and asked them to hurry back to Massachusetts.

Surveillance footage from Hernandez's home showed him leaving with a gun, and he told someone in the house that he was upset and couldn't trust anyone anymore, the prosecutor said.

The three men picked up Lloyd at his home around 2:30 a.m., according to authorities. As they drove around in their rented car, they discussed what happened at the nightclub, and Lloyd started getting nervous, McCauley said.

Lloyd texted his sister, "Did you see who I am with?" When she asked who, he answered, at 3:22 a.m., "NFL," then, a minute later, he sent one final text: "Just so you know."

Within a few minutes, people working the overnight shift at the industrial park reported hearing gunshots, McCauley said. Surveillance video showed the car going into a remote area of the industrial park and emerging four minutes later, the prosecutor said.

A short time later, Hernandez returned to his house,

and he and one of the other men were seen on his home surveillance system holding guns, McCauley said. Then the system stopped recording, according to the prosecutor. Hernandez had recently installed the system and had 14 cameras inside and out, according to McCauley, who said detectives found footage was missing from the six to eight hours after the slaying.

Investigators did not specify who fired the shots. They did not identify the two other people who were with Hernandez or say whether they were under arrest.

According to McCauley, Hernandez and his friends later returned the car to the rental agency, and Hernandez offered the attendant a piece of blue chewing gum. She found a .45-caliber shell casing and a piece of what appeared to be chewed blue gum in the car and threw them out.

Later, investigators retrieved the items from a trash bin, and the casing matched others found where Lloyd was killed, McCauley said. □

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FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:25 | 11:30  
SAT 3:45 | 6:35 | 9:25 | 11:30  
SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:35 | 9:25

MON - THURS 5:10 | 8:00  
FRI 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50  
SAT 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50  
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

**ALSO SHOWING!**

SANDRA BULLOCK | MELISSA MCCARTHY

**THE HEAT**

MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20  
FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 12:00  
SAT 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

BRAD PITT | MIREILLE ENOS

**WORLD WAR Z**

3D VERSION

MON - THURS 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25  
FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00  
SAT 1:55 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

REGULAR VERSION

MON - THURS 5:40 | 8:15  
FRI 5:40 | 8:15 | 10:40  
SAT 3:05 | 5:40 | 8:15 | 10:40  
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:40 | 8:15

BILLY CRYSTAL | JOHN GOODMAN

**MONSTERS UNIVERSITY**

3D VERSION

MON - FRI 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40  
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40

HENRY CAVILL | AMY ADAMS

**MAN OF STEEL**

3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON - FRI 5:45 | 8:50  
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50

JAMES FRANCO | SETH ROGEN

**THIS IS THE END**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON - THURS 7:10  
FRI & SAT 7:10  
SUN & HOL 7:10

BRADLEY COOPER | ED HELMS

**THE HANGOVER: PART III**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON - THURS 9:35  
FRI 9:35 | 12:00  
SAT 2:00 | 9:35 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 9:35

VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER

**FAST & FURIOUS 6**

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MON - FRI 4:20  
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# Hepatitis C test for baby boomers urged by health panel

**ANDREW POLLACK**

© 2013 New York Times

An influential health advisory group has reversed itself and concluded that all baby boomers should be tested for hepatitis C, meaning that under the new health law many insurance plans will have to provide screening without charge to patients.

The group, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, announced its change of heart this week, saying there was likely to be some benefit from such screening.

An estimated 15,000 Americans a year die from the consequences of hepatitis C infection, which can cause liver scarring, liver failure and liver cancer, although such effects typically do not show up for decades, if at all.

About three-quarters of the more than 3 million Americans with hepatitis C are baby boomers, most of them infected decades ago. But most do not know it because they have no symptoms. Those at highest risk for the infection include users of injected drugs and recipients of blood transfusions before 1992, when screening of donated blood for the virus began. The task force had said in a preliminary decision in November that screening all baby boomers would probably offer only a small benefit.

That finding put it at odds with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which had said a few months earlier that all people born between 1945 and 1965 should be offered a one-time test to see if they are infected with the hepatitis C virus. But the task force said on Monday that after reviewing some new studies and the public comments that it had received on its preliminary decision, it decided to recommend screening of baby boomers, saying there was a "moderate certainty" it would have a "moderate net benefit." The decision is good for

drug companies selling or developing drugs to treat hepatitis C, like Merck, Vertex, Gilead and AbbVie, because it means more people who harbor the vi-

Merck and Vertex Pharmaceuticals have increased the cure rates for hepatitis C when used along with existing drugs. Companies including Gilead Sciences

made up of independent experts appointed by the government, said in its preliminary decision that the CDC might have overestimated how many infected people would develop liver problems or die, thus overstating the benefits of screening.

But in its final decision, the task force said new studies and the growing effectiveness of treatment buttressed the case for screening even those without any symptoms or risk factors.

Many of those who had submitted public comments after the preliminary decision had argued that screening all baby boomers would be more effective than testing only those thought to be at risk, like people who had injected drugs. Many people either do not remember risky behavior from decades ago or do not want to tell their doctors about it.

The task force's preliminary recommendation had a grade C, meaning testing could be offered to select patients and would probably have a small benefit. The final recommendation has a grade B, suggesting

a moderate benefit.

Under the Affordable Care Act, preventive services that get a grade A or B from the task force are supposed to be provided without co-payments from patients, although some existing health plans are grandfathered in and would be exempt.

Although the task force is considered quasi-governmental - and its recommendations are meant for primary care physicians - it can be ignored. It encountered significant resistance from doctors and other medical experts when it recommended a reduction in mammography screening. It also got criticism over its recommendation against prostate screening, although the American Urological Association eventually reached a similar conclusion.

Legislators in New York state this month passed what advocates called the first state bill that would require hospitals and other health care providers to offer hepatitis C screening. The bill will now go to Gov. Andrew Cuomo for his signature. □



Photo shows a Hepatitis C rapid screen test kit. An estimated 15,000 Americans a year die from the consequences of hepatitis C infection.

(Handout Photo)

rus but do not know it will be discovered, making them candidates for treatment. The decision could also help companies that make hepatitis C tests, like OraSure Technologies. New drugs introduced by

and AbbVie are racing to bring drugs to market in the next two or three years that would do away with the need for weekly injections of a harsh drug, alpha interferon. The task force, which is

## Road to Fitness:

# Vitamin D can help facilitate muscle recovery

**Marjie Gilliam**

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

**DAYTON, Ohio** -- Warmer weather brings about greater motivation to be active, whether it's taking a brisk walk, hiking, biking, swimming or working in the yard. Unfortunately, it's easy to overdo it sometimes, which can result in stiff, sore muscles.

An interesting study from The Orthopedic Specialty Hospital (TOSH) found that vitamin D can help facilitate faster muscle recovery after intense exercise, and may even help prevent muscle damage caused by overdoing it.

Damage to the muscles can be caused by a variety of factors, such as experiencing a strain and accompanying inflammation. For example, after a long

steep hike, muscles may be extremely sore, leaving them unable to exert normal force. With rest, they repair and regain their full strength again.

"We wanted to study the relationship between vita-

min levels and recovery following intense exercise," says TOSH researcher Tyler Barker, Ph.D., lead author of the study. "What we found was that those who had higher vitamin D levels had a faster rate recovery from

muscle damage." The research was published in the journal, *Nutrients: Vitamin D and Human Health*.

"This research sheds new light on the importance of vitamin D in our bodies," said Dr. Brian Dixon, executive director of scientific and clinical affairs at USANA Health Science, and contributing author of the study. "This study is especially appealing on a personal level. For those of us who consider ourselves 'weekend warriors', it looks like we can play a little harder and maybe not suffer as much on Monday." Fourteen physically active adults participated in the study. Vitamin D levels and the amount of force a participant could exert were measured before and after intense exercise. □



Got Vitamin D? A recent study found that vitamin D can help facilitate faster muscle recovery after intense exercise.

(Handout Photo)



## Microsoft unveils tweaked Windows 8

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft on Wednesday released a preview version of an update to Windows 8, aiming to address some of the gripes people have with the company's flagship operating system.

At a conference in San Francisco, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer acknowledged that the company pushed hard to get people to adopt a radical new tile-based "Modern" user interface in Windows 8. Microsoft is now back-pedaling, making it easier to reach and use the older "desktop" interface.

"Let's make it easier to start applications the way we're used to," Ballmer told the audience of software developers. "What we will show you today is a refined

changes. A common complaint about Windows 8 is that it hides features and functions, and replaces buttons with gestures and invisible click zones that have to be memorized.

Other new features of Windows 8.1 include more options to use multiple apps. People will be able to determine how much of the screen each app takes while showing up to four different programs, rather than just two.

The update will also offer more integrated search results, showing users previews of websites, apps and documents that are on the device, all at once. Microsoft also touted a broadening array of applications specifically written for Windows 8, among them one from Facebook. Frank Gillett, an analyst

ter desktops, laptops and tablets with Windows 8 went on sale. The version of the Windows 8.1 update meant for the general public will come later in the year, though the company hasn't announced a specific date.

Julie Larson-Green, the head of Microsoft's Windows division, said the update, rapid by Microsoft standards, "shows how much more responsive our engineering has become." Many of the new features have been shown already. A three-day Build conference, which started Wednesday in San Francisco, gives Microsoft developers a chance to learn more about the new system and try it out.

It also will give the company a chance to explain some of the reasoning



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer comments on the Windows 8 operating system Hollywood's Milk Studios in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

blend of our Desktop experience and our Modern experience."

Microsoft made the preview of Windows 8.1 available for free as a download.

Windows 8.1 will allow people to boot up in Desktop mode. There, they'll find a button that resembles the old Start button. It won't take users to the old Start menu, but to the new "Modern" Windows 8 start screen. Still, the re-introduction of the familiar button may make it easier for longtime Windows users to get accustomed to the

with research firm Forrester, said that with 8.1, Microsoft is doing a better job of uniting the Desktop and Modern screens, but the changes don't run deep.

"They smoothed off some rough edges, but they don't fundamentally change the experience of having two experiences within one operating system," he said.

The preview version of Windows 8.1 is meant for Microsoft's partners and other technology developers, but anyone can download it. The release comes exactly eight months af-

ter the update and sell developers on Microsoft's ambitions to regain relevance lost to Apple's iPad and various devices running Google's Android software.

Windows 8, released Oct. 26, was meant to be Microsoft's answer to changing customer behaviors and the rise of tablet computers. The operating system emphasizes touch controls over the mouse and the keyboard, which had been the main way people have interacted with their personal computers since the 1980s. □

## SMART APPS:

### Brain workouts on your phone

KIT EATON

© 2013 New York Times

I often say I have a bad memory. In fact, it is perfectly possible for me to lose track of what I'm writing in the middle of a ... um ... never mind. To improve my memory and enhance my other brain skills, I love doing mental math, logic and word puzzles. Nowadays, my smartphone hosts a whole range of tools to help with this.

Lumosity Brain Trainer, free on Apple's iOS, is one of the better-known brain-training apps. It is split into several sessions of three games each that are supposed to help you improve your memory, problem-solving ability or flexibility of thinking. The games are played against the clock, and they are all different.

One challenging game shows two colored words on the screen, each the name of a color. Your task is to read one word and tap on "match" if the color it describes is the color the second word is written in. It sounds easy, but your brain can easily be fooled by reading the word "yellow" and ignoring the fact that it's written in red. Other games ask you to solve arithmetic puzzles or replicate patterns of colored squares from memory.

The hope is that if you do about one session a day, practicing the different memory and thinking tasks in the games, you will improve your skills. To track your progress, you get a "brain profile" that charts details like speed, problem-solving and memory. Lumosity is likable and simple, but there's a catch: only five sessions are free. You have to pay to unlock more, along with some other functions, such as comparing your scores against averages for your age group. Yearly access costs \$10.

Android users might enjoy Brain Trainer Special, free at the Google Play store. Like Lumosity, this app contains different games aimed at honing different brain skills. But it is much simpler in de-

sign, and has fewer games. It is also less structured. You could choose to play the analytics game, where you have to spot the missing number in a sequence,



A screen grab of the Brain Trainer Special app. (Handout via The New York Times)

many more times than the "phone numbers" memory game.

A bar chart tracks your previous scores so you can see your progress. It's more fun than Lumosity - maybe too much so. It feels more like a game than serious mental exercise, and that might not suit your tastes.

Mind Games, free on Android, is similar to Brain Trainer, but has a few added niceties, like a schedule feature that you can set to remind you to play. Its games cover a broad range of tasks, like expanding your vocabulary and assisting your spatial memory.

An offering that really seems serious about the brain training task is Fit Brains Trainer, free on iOS. Its games and puzzles, aimed at stretching and improving your mental agility, are carefully structured, leading you through various tasks. Observation, estimation and mental math skills, for example, are tested in a game where drops of color fall down the screen into graphical paint tins. When the clock runs out, you have to tap to say whether one tin caught more, less or the same number of drops than the other.

Graphs track your performance over time in areas like memory and concentration. □



# Luxoft surges in 1st day of trading on the NYSE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Shares of Luxoft, which develops and maintains software for businesses and other enterprises, surged in their first day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The stock gained \$3.38, or about 20 percent, to close at \$20.38 on Wednesday, having risen as high as

\$21.70 during the session. Luxoft Holding Inc., based in Zug, Switzerland, said that the offering of about 4.1 million shares was priced at \$17 per share, the midpoint of the expected range of \$16 to \$18 per share. The IPO raised almost \$69.7 million. Both Luxoft and its parent

company, IBS Group Holding Ltd., offered 2.05 million shares each. IBS is a software development and information technology services provider in Eastern Europe. Luxoft won't receive any proceeds from the shares sold by IBS. Luxoft said in a regulatory

filing that it anticipates net proceeds of about \$31.1 million, which it plans to use for working capital and other general corporate purposes. The underwriters are being given a 30-day option to buy up to an additional 613,810 shares to cover any excess demand. If fully sold, that

would boost Luxoft's total net take to about \$35.9 million. For the year ended March 31, Luxoft had net income of \$37.5 million on revenue of \$314.6 million. The stock is trading under the "LXFT" ticker symbol. The offering is expected to close on July 1. □

## Traders 'take a breather,' buying stocks and bonds



Traders gather at the post of specialist Patrick Murphy, right, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The U.S. economy slowed down, but the stock market went up for a second day in a row on Wednesday, June 26, 2013. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

**CHRISTINA REXRODE**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The U.S. economy slowed down, but the stock market went up for a second day in a row on Wednesday. The gains were decisive.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 149.83 points, or 1 percent, 14,910.14. All 10 sectors in the Standard & Poor's 500 index were higher. The appraisal of the economy was just as clear, and

contrary: The government reported that the economy grew at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the first three months of the year, down significantly from the previous estimate of 2.4 percent and anemic

by the standards of many economists. It might seem counterintuitive for stocks and growth to go in opposite directions, but analysts said it made sense. The slower growth made traders and investors less anxious that the Federal Reserve might act too soon to end measures aimed at propping up the economy and stock market. Investors also seemed to realize that they dumped too many stocks last week, when they panicked after the Fed outlined plans on how it might eventually end the measures. "The sell-off was a little bit overdone," said David Coard, head of fixed-income sales and trading at Williams Capital Group in New York. "Sometimes you've got to take a breather." Tuesday and Wednesday marked the stock market's first two-day gain since the Fed gave its timetable for throttling back its eco-

nomics stimulus a week ago. That announcement, which followed weeks of speculation about its next move, had spooked markets, causing stocks to gyrate and bond yields to spike. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 15.23, or 1 percent, to 1,603.26. The Nasdaq composite index gained 28.34, or 1 percent, to 3,376.22. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell for the first time since June 14, slipping to 2.54 percent from 2.61 percent. The price of gold plunged \$45.30, or 3.6 percent, to \$1,229.80 an ounce, its lowest price in three years. The markets have been unpredictable for weeks, ever since Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke started hinting that a pullback in Fed stimulus programs would start soon. In the last 25 trading days, the Dow has ricocheted through 17 triple-digit swings, split almost evenly between ups and downs. □

## ANA, AirAsia dissolve venture on low-cost carrier

**HIROKO TABUCHI**  
© 2013 New York Times

**TOKYO** - Malaysia's AirAsia and All Nippon Airways of Japan announced the end of their joint ownership of the struggling Japanese budget carrier AirAsia Japan this week, attributing the split to fundamental differences over cost control and customer service. In separate statements, the airlines said that All Nippon, also known as ANA, had agreed to buy out AirAsia's 33 percent stake in the venture and operate it as a wholly owned subsidiary. Neither airline

disclosed how much All Nippon would pay AirAsia for giving up its stake. Signs of discord had been apparent for some time at AirAsia Japan, a low-cost carrier formed two years ago as a number of airlines tried to crack open Japan's lucrative aviation market. The new carrier based its operations at Narita Airport, about 40 miles east of Tokyo, and offered budget flights to Sapporo, Fukuoka and Okinawa in Japan as well as two cities in South Korea. But the budget airline has been slow to generate

sales, prompting each partner to accuse the other of undermining the business. AirAsia Japan's passenger load factor, a measure of average occupancy on an airline's routes, was 53 percent in May, a critically low level for a budget carrier that makes up for low fares by flying many passengers. The venture ate into All Nippon's operating profit to the tune of about 3.5 billion yen, or about \$36 million, in the latest fiscal year through March, according to the company.

On Tuesday, All Nippon said ineffective marketing, a poorly designed website and poor customer service had doomed the venture. Shinzo Shimizu, senior vice president at All Nippon, said that the airline had learned a lot from its Malaysian partner on how to cut costs by adopting simpler reservation systems, turning planes around faster on the ground and getting employees to multitask. But cutting costs was not enough to win over Japanese travelers, Shimizu said. "AirAsia may be almighty

in Southeast Asia, but it wasn't fit to provide the meticulous service called for in Japan," Shimizu said. "Even a low-cost carrier requires attentive service, and the airline was not up to task." Shimizu said that it would pick a new name for the AirAsia venture and decide by July how it would be run. He said the airline was considering a possible merger of AirAsia with Peach, another low-cost venture backed by Hong Kong investors that All Nippon runs out of Kansai International Airport in Osaka. □



## UBS France fined \$13MN over failures

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — UBS France is being fined 10 million euros (\$13 million) after French authorities found the bank delayed tightening up controls to curb money laundering and cross-border fiscal fraud.

The French banking regulator, ACP, said Wednesday that UBS France was warned by autumn 2007 about inadequate procedures and did nothing for 18 months. The statement did not specify whether there had been any illicit activity.

French prosecutors are separately investigating UBS France — and three executives — for complicity in illegal business dealings.

In a statement, the Swiss bank said its French subsidiary has been under new leadership since 2012 “and has continuously strengthened its rules and processes.”

The bank said it was considering appealing the decision and has denied wrongdoing in the investigation.

The fine on UBS France comes amid heightened efforts by officials to crack down on tax evaders across Europe as the region's governments struggle to cut debt and emerge from economic recession.

The head of Europe's central bank underlined this effort Wednesday, saying after a hearing in the French parliament that there could be “no complacency” for tax cheats.

“I think there should be no doubt that tax evasion should be...a fight that should be fought at all costs and won,” ECB President Mario Draghi said.

The European Union is leading a charge to crack down on secret accounts that hide money from governments, and the Group of 20 leading industrial and developing nations has pledged to rein in tax avoidance by multinational companies. □

## Seed giant Monsanto's fiscal 3Q profit slips 3 pct

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Monsanto's fiscal third quarter earnings slipped 3 percent, as hits to the agricultural product maker's cotton and soybean segments weighed on results.

The St. Louis company also said Wednesday that it tried to plant a seed for future growth by eating some drought-related expenses in the recently completed quarter.

Monsanto said the 2012 drought that parched stretches of the United States forced it to use South American greenhouses more to produce corn seeds. That contributed to a 7 percent increase in cost of goods sold in this year's quarter. Monsanto decided to eat the higher expenses tied to seed production instead of passing them along through price hikes.

CEO Hugh Grant told analysts during a Wednesday morning call the company saw that as “an investment in our customer base,” one they hope helps customer sentiment and profitability next year.

The move was more than just a public relations stunt, according to Morningstar analyst Jeff Stafford. He said Monsanto has turned off some farmers in the past by introducing new seeds at very high prices.

“They are acutely aware of driving prices year over year and what that means in their relationship with farmers,” he said.

Overall, Monsanto earned \$909 million, or \$1.68 per share, in the quarter ended May 31, down from \$937

spring that preceded the drought allowed farmers to sow crops earlier.

Analysts expected earnings of \$1.61 per share on \$4.41 billion in revenue for this year's quarter, according to FactSet.

Several analysts cited a

used by farmers for their pest resistance and ability to produce bigger crops.

Many U.S. farmers credited genetic modifications in corn with saving last year's crop from all but total devastation as half of the nation endured the



The DEKALB corn logo is seen on alongside of rows of corn in Ashland, Ill. DEKALB is one of Monsanto's leading North American brands. Monsanto's fiscal third quarter net income slipped 3%, as hits to the agricultural product company's cotton and soybean seed segments restrained revenue growth.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

million, or \$1.74 per share, a year ago.

Earnings totaled \$1.66 per share, not counting a tax matter resolution.

Revenue inched up less than 1 percent to \$4.25 billion. In contrast, Monsanto's revenue had soared 17 percent in last year's quarter when the mild

lower tax rate as the main factor behind the better-than-expected earnings.

Monsanto Co. makes seeds for crops like corn, soybean, cotton and wheat and crop protection chemicals like the herbicide Roundup. The agricultural giant produces genetically engineered seeds

worst drought in 60 years. But these crops also have drawn criticism from organic food advocates who say they are harmful to people and the environment. Last month, protesters organized “March Against Monsanto” rallies in several countries over genetically modified food. □

## Coca-Cola Enterprises' UK growth plan: breakfast

NEW YORK (AP)

— Get people to drink swap tea or coffee for soft drinks with breakfast — that's one of the strategies Coca-Cola's main bottler in Europe is targeting to boost sales in the United Kingdom.

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. issued a report last week that identifies a variety of ways it can increase sales over the next five years in the region. One category entitled “Complete the Meal” notes that breakfast is often referred to as the most important meal of the day, with about a quarter of all drinks being consumed before 10 a.m.

“How do we motivate peo-

ple to make soft drinks, like smoothies, juices and other on-the-go products, part of their morning ritual in the same way as tea or coffee?” the report asks.

In a statement, the company said it was referring specifically to smoothies and juices in suggesting breakfast as an area for growth. The optimistic report comes as soda consumption has been fading in developed countries such as the U.S. amid concerns they fuel weight gain. To combat criticism, Coca-Cola Co. began airing TV ads this year that explain what it's doing to fight obesity. The Atlanta-based company

and rival PepsiCo Inc. are also working on making better-tasting diet sodas that use natural sweeteners. Although sodas remain the flagship drinks for both companies, they've also been looking to sell more of other drinks such as sports drinks and bottled waters. The “See the Opportunity” report issued by Coca-Cola Enterprises also notes that there are no soft drinks in the United Kingdom designed as “relaxation” drinks, as there are in Japan and the U.S. Without specifying any brands, it notes that drinks containing melatonin are expected to exceed 300 million

liters of consumption in the U.S. by 2014. Other ways to increase sales include making soft drinks a pick-me-up at work or providing the right range of packages at the right prices for teens at places such as the movies, the report says. It also notes that the “Daytime At Home” category is largely untapped for the soda industry, with tap water and hot drinks being the most common beverages at home. The report notes that people want to be more healthy by drinking more water but that soft drinks can offer “refreshing, health and tasty alternatives.” □



## Mutts



## 6 Chix



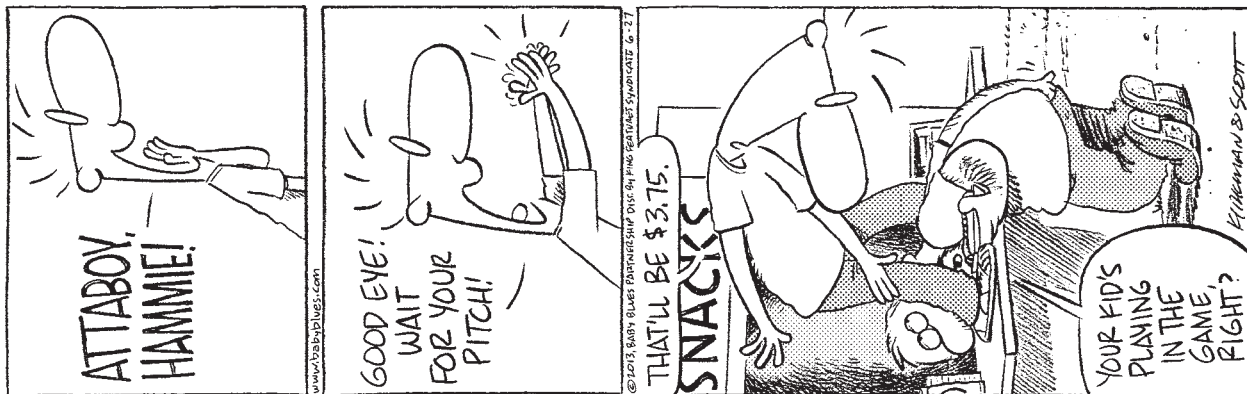
## Blondie



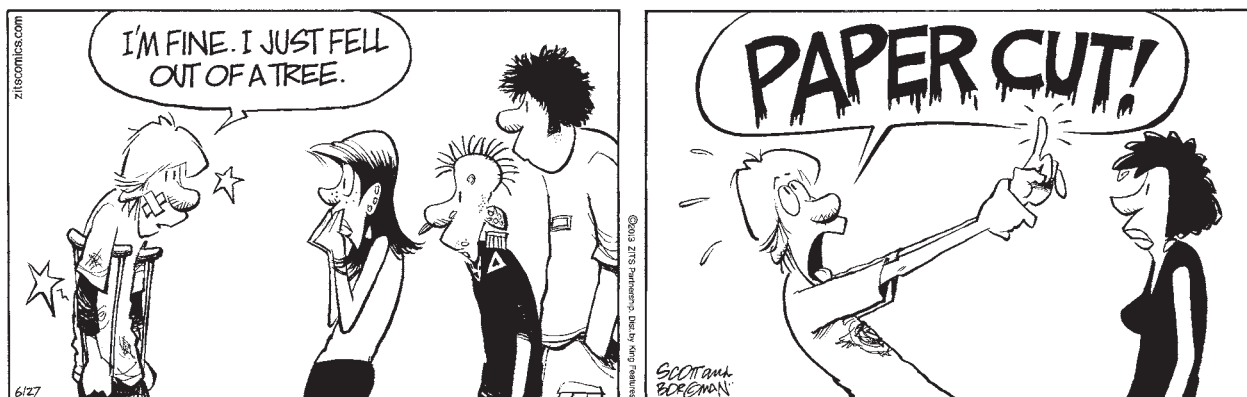
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	2		3		7		1	
9								2
		8		4		9		
4								5
		3				7		
5								3
		5		6		8		
2								7
	1		8		9		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	3	8	4	1	2	9	6	7
7	2	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
9	1	6	8	7	5	4	3	2
2	7	3	9	8	6	5	4	1
1	6	5	2	4	3	8	7	9
8	4	9	7	5	1	6	2	3
3	8	7	6	9	4	2	1	5
4	5	2	1	3	8	7	9	6
6	9	1	5	2	7	3	8	4

## ACROSS

- Penny
- Donkeys
- TV's "Trek"
- Declare openly
- Color of half the checkers
- Enormous
- Evergreen tree
- Instrument used for "Taps"
- In the sack
- Pullman car
- Having no goal
- Attempt
- Last
- Backstreet
- Golfing term
- Australian marsupial
- Tush
- That woman
- Gems
- Aswan or Hoover
- Rattling gourds
- Rodent
- Large fish-eating hawk
- Took the prize
- Magazine title
- Adjust an alarm
- Made a lap
- Cut a sheep's wool
- Bash
- Luau dish
- School bee participant
- Socked
- German car
- Fencing sword
- Actress Ballard
- French girlfriend
- Bleacher levels
- though; albeit
- Cave dwellers
- Asp or adder
- Examination

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/27/13

## Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

GAMES	URGE	RAGE
ALONE	NAIL	ODOR
PLACE	TYNE	MOOR
SYNOPSIS	COARSE	
RICE	STUNNED	
ATHENA	LISZT	
LEO	GLEAM	OILED
MAMA	EBBED	COVE
SKEIN	SOWED	VIN
REFER	BARELY	
ASPIRIN	WIRE	
RWANDA	OUTLASTS	
DICE	STAR	IDAHO
ONES	CATS	NEVER
REDS	QUEST	GREET

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6/27/13

## DOWN

- Berets & tams
- Wicked
- Zero
- Small loudspeaker
- Monastery
- Insulting remark
- Droop
- Fancy dessert
- Coil of yarn
- Superficial; lacking depth
- Test; tiny bottle in a lab
- Grows gray
- Communists
- Be nosy
- Creates
- In the distance
- Zeal
- Contract with a landlord
- Sources of light
- person; apiece
- Eagle's nest
- Camel's smaller cousin
- Fall flower
- Barn dinner
- Winter month; abbr.
- Handbag
- Iron or tin

- Rollaway bed
- Answers
- Dense growth of shrubbery
- Overexert
- Male child
- Takes a nap
- Swedish auto
- Wild feline
- Correct a text
- up; become cheery again
- Possess
- Facial features
- Fender bender memento
- Actress Arthur



# CNN to revive 'Crossfire,' early home for debate and political shouting matches

**BRIAN STELTER**

© 2013 New York Times

"Crossfire," the forerunner to so many television debates and shouting matches, is coming back to CNN, the cable news channel announced Wednesday. The format will be the same as it was in the 1980s and '90s - two hosts each day, one from a liberal perspective and the other from a conservative perspective.

mer special adviser to Obama for green jobs. CNN said the program would return this fall. It did not specify a premiere date or a time slot, but the late afternoon or early evening is most likely. The channel's plan was first reported in April by TVNews-er. More than eight years after it was canceled, "Crossfire" is still one of the most widely known cable

celed the show the next year.) Others have praised "Crossfire" for pioneering a form of televised debate and for presenting multiple points of views about thorny issues. For CNN, the restoration may be intended as a statement that the channel is a television home for all sides, in contrast to Fox News, which is associated with the right, and MSNBC, which is asso-



**Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich appears during the 40th annual Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md. CNN is bringing its political show "Crossfire" back on the air this fall with Newt Gingrich as one of the combatants. The original political talk show on cable news aired on CNN from 1982 until 2005.** (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

But the stable of political pundits exchanging verbal fire will be new. The conservatives will be Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House and presidential candidate, and S.E. Cupp, a television commentator who is joining CNN from MSNBC. The liberals will be Stephanie Cutter, the deputy campaign manager for President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign, and Van Jones, an activist and for-

news programs, but it has also been widely derided, as evidenced by the mixed reactions online to CNN's announcement Wednesday morning. Some media critics and commentators have denounced the program for wedging complex arguments into a left-right rubric and promoting political polarization. (In the words of Jon Stewart during his 2004 appearance on the program, "It's hurting America." CNN can-

ciated with the left. Jeff Zucker, who took over as president of CNN in January, said in a statement Wednesday: "Few programs in the history of CNN have had the kind of impact on political discourse that 'Crossfire' did."

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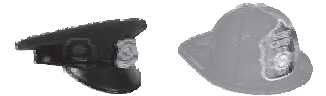
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# US to retire most chimps from medical research

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The National Institutes of Health plans to end most use of chimpanzees in U.S. government medical research, saying humans' closest relatives "deserve special respect."

Much of the rest of the world already had ended such research.

The NIH announced Wednesday that it will retire about 310 government-owned chimpanzees from research over the next few years, and keep only 50 others essentially on retainer — available if needed for crucial medical studies that could be performed no other way.

"These amazing animals have taught us a great deal already," said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins. He said the decision helps usher in "a compassionate

era."

The NIH's decision was long expected, after the prestigious Institute of Medicine declared in 2011 that nearly all use of chimps for invasive medical research no longer can be justified. "This is an historic moment and major turning point for chimpanzees in laboratories, some who have been languishing in concrete housing for over 50 years," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. "It is crucial now to ensure that the release of hundreds of chimpanzees to sanctuary becomes a reality."

Any future biomedical research funded by the NIH with chimps, government-owned or not, would be allowed only under strict conditions after review by a special advisory board. In five years, the NIH will re-

assess if even that group of 50 government-owned apes still is needed for science.



**Two chimps walking together at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La. The government is about to retire most of the chimpanzees who've spent their lives in U.S. research labs.**

**(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)**

What's unclear is exactly where the retiring chimps, which have spent their lives in research facilities

around the country, now will spend their final years. NIH said they could eventually join more than 150

other chimps already in the national sanctuary system operated by Chimp Haven in the state of Louisiana. In

that habitat, the chimps can socialize at will, climb trees and explore different play areas.

But NIH officials said currently there's not enough space to handle all of the 310 destined for retirement. They're exploring additional locations, and noted that some research facilities that currently house government-owned chimps have habitats similar to the sanctuary system. The other hurdle is money: Congress limited how much the NIH can spend on caring for chimps in the sanctuary system. Negotiations are under way to shift money the agency has spent housing the animals in research facilities toward supporting their retirement. "Everybody should understand this is not something that is going to happen quickly," Collins cautioned. □

## New bird species discovered in Cambodian capital

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia**

**(AP)** — A previously unknown species of bird has been discovered in Cambodia, not in some remote jungle but in the country's capital, researchers announced Wednesday.

The New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society said a team of its scientists, working with other

groups including BirdLife International, discovered the wren-sized Cambodian tailorbird living in dense, humid lowland scrub in Phnom Penh and other locations just outside the city. The statement described the bird as gray in color with a brownish-red cap and black throat. It said only one other bird species

is unique to Cambodia, the Cambodian laughingthrush, found only in the remote Cardamom mountain range.

The discovery of the bird, also known as *Orthotomus chaktomuk*, was announced in a special online edition of the Oriental Bird Club's journal *Forktail*, the statement said.



**A male Cambodian tailorbird, which scientists say is a new bird species unique to Cambodia discovered in Phnom Penh, is seen in an undated photo provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society.**

**(AP Photo/Wildlife Conservation Society)**

"Finding any new bird species is special, but to find one so close to my home and the homes of millions of people is particularly special," said Simon Mahood of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who with a colleague investigated the discovery.

"The bird is probably not rare, although its habitat is threatened. In the places where it can be found it is abundant."

However, the *Forktail* article says the bird's natural habitat is shrinking and

it should be considered slightly endangered.

"Asia contains a spectacular concentration of bird life, but is also under sharply increasing threats ranging from large-scale development projects to illegal hunting," the statement quoted WCS bird conservation coordinator Steve Zack saying.

"Further work is needed to better understand the distribution and ecology of this exciting newly described species to determine its conservation needs." □

## Two-headed turtle hatches at US zoo



**Thelma and Louise, a two-headed Texas cooter turtle, is seen in an undated photo provided by the San Antonio Zoo.**

**(AP Photo/San Antonio Zoo)**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — A two-headed turtle has hatched at the San Anto-

nio Zoo and officials have named her Thelma and Louise.

The female Texas cooter arrived June 18 and will go on display Thursday at the zoo's Friedrich Aquarium. Zoo spokeswoman Debbie Rios-Vanskike said Wednesday that the two-headed turtle appears healthy and is able to swim and walk. She says experts at the zoo don't foresee any health issues for Thelma and Louise, named for the female duo in the 1991 Oscar-winning road movie of the same name.

The San Antonio Zoo is no stranger to two-headed reptiles. The facility was home to a two-headed Texas rat snake named Janus from 1978 until the creature's death to 1995. □



## Jackson's son says father feared concert promoter



Prince Michael Jackson appears on stage at the Michael Forever the Tribute Concert, at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. (AP Photo/Joel Ryan)

**A. McCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Michael Jackson's eldest son testified Wednesday that his father was excited about going back on tour before his death but wasn't happy about the pressure that came with the ill-fated shows. Prince Jackson told jurors his father wanted more time to rehearse and had several tense phone conversations with promoters of his "This Is It" shows that sometimes ended with his father in tears. The 16-year-old said his father remarked after one of the conversations, "'They're going to kill me.'" He did not elaborate. The testimony came in a lawsuit claiming AEG negligently hired Conrad Murray, the doctor who was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter for giving Jackson an overdose of the anesthetic propofol. AEG denies it hired the physician or bears any responsibility for the entertainer's death.

Wearing a black suit with a dark grey tie and his long brown hair tucked behind his ears, Prince testified that he saw AEG Live CEO Randy Phillips at the family's rented mansion in a heated conversation with Murray in the days before his father died. The teenager said Phillips grabbed Murray's elbow. Phillips "looked aggressive to me," Prince testified. Michael Jackson wasn't at home at the time and was probably rehearsing, Prince said. Murray's attorney Valerie Wass and AEG defense attorney Marvin S. Putnam later denied outside court that the meeting Prince described ever happened. Putnam said Prince would be re-called to the witness stand during the defense case later in the trial. "I think as the testimony will show when he is called in our defense that's not what happened," Putnam said. "He was a 12-year-old boy who has had to endure this great tragedy." □

## Wal-Mart dumps Deen after 'Today' tears

**DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Celebrity chef Paula Deen was dropped by Wal-Mart and her name was stripped from four buffet restaurants on Wednesday, hours after she went on television and tearfully defended herself amid the mounting fallout over her admission of using a racial slur. The story has become both a day-by-day struggle by a successful businesswoman from the U.S. South to keep her career afloat and a lesson on the level of tolerance in society for being caught making an insensitive remark. During a deposition in a dis-

crimination lawsuit filed by an ex-employee, the chef, who specializes in Southern comfort food, admitted to using the N-word in the past. The lawsuit also accuses Deen of using the slur when planning her brother's 2007 wedding, saying she wanted black servers in white coats, shorts and bow ties for a "Southern plantation-style wedding."

Deen said she didn't recall using the word "plantation" when planning her brother's wedding and denied using the N-word to describe waiters. She said she quickly dismissed the idea of having all black servers. The controversy exploded last week when the details from her deposition in the discrimination lawsuit became public. On Wednesday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it ended its relationship with Deen and will not place "any new orders beyond what's already committed." Caesars Entertainment Corp. said it had been "mutually decided" with Deen to remove her name from its restaurants in Joliet, Illinois; Tunica, Mississippi; Cherokee, North Carolina; and Elizabeth, Indiana. At the same time, Deen's representatives released letters of support from nine companies that do business with the chef and prom-

about when she was held at gunpoint by a robber who was black while working as a bank teller in the 1980s in Georgia. In the deposition, she said she may also have used the slur when recalling conversations between black employees at her restaurants. Asked in the deposition if she had used the word more than once, she said, "I'm sure I have, but it's been a very long time." In her "Today" show appearance, Deen told Lauer she was heartbroken by the controversy and she wasn't a racist. "I've had to hold friends in my arms while they've sobbed because they



Celebrity chef Paula Deen appears on NBC News' "Today" show, Wednesday, June 26, 2013 in New York. Deen dissolved into tears during a "Today" show interview Wednesday about her admission that she used a racial slur in the past.

(AP Photo/NBC, Peter Kramer)

ised to continue. There's evidence that a backlash is growing against the Food Network, which tersely announced last Friday that it was cutting ties with one of its stars. The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Deen had called him and he agreed to help her, saying she shouldn't become a sacrificial lamb over the issue of racial intolerance. "What she did was wrong, but she can change," Jackson said. Deen told Matt Lauer on "Today" on Wednesday that she could only recall using the N-word once. She said she remembered using it when retelling a story

know what's been said about me is not true and I'm having to comfort them," she said. Looking distressed and with her voice breaking, Deen said if there was someone in the audience who had never said something they wished they could take back, "please pick up that stone and throw it as hard at my head so it kills me. I want to meet you. I want to meet you." It's an apparent reference to the Biblical passage about whether a woman guilty of adultery should be stoned: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." □



## Movie Review:

# 'White House Down' a refreshingly dumb throwback

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer  
Staggeringly implausible, cartoonishly comical, Roland Emmerich's "White House Down" is refreshingly dumb.

Refreshing because care-free action absurdity, once the province of the summer cinema, is on the outs. Solemnity — even for caped, flying men in tight-fitting trousers — is in.

But there's an inarguable, senseless pleasure in watching Jamie Foxx, as the president of the United States, kicking a terrorist and shouting: "Get your hands off my Jordans!" Hail to the chief, indeed.

"White House Down" follows Antoine Fuqua's "Olympus Has Fallen," released in March, as the second movie this year to imagine an assault on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The two films are very similarly plotted, but "White House Down" is notably less serious, more content to loosen the strings and acknowledge its own inherent preposterousness.

This becomes particularly crystalized somewhere around the time Foxx's President James Sawyer and his rescuer, Channing Tatum's wannabe secret service agent, are careening across the White House lawn in the president's limo while terrorists shoot in pursuit. Onlookers behind a fence — media, regular people, the Army — merely gape in awe, as if frozen by the idiocy.

"White House Down" is most entertaining when it's a simple, ludicrous buddy movie, with Tatum and Foxx fleeing across the White House grounds, dropping one-liners as they go, eluding a gang of assailants led by a bitter turncoat (James Woods) and his ferocious henchmen (including Jason Clarke, swapping sides in the war on terror following "Zero Dark Thirty").

This is a kind of coronation for Tatum as a movie star. He's now reached the level that he can breeze through a blatantly silly



This film publicity image released by Columbia Pictures shows Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum, left, in a scene from "White House Down."

movie and look none the worse for it.

He's John Cale (not to be confused with the Velvet Underground musician, although, how could you?), a Silver Star veteran of Afghanistan and a police bodyguard to the speaker of the house (Richard Jenkins).

For his Secret Service interview at the White House, he's brought along his politics-obsessed 11-year-

old daughter (the promising Joey King). But it goes poorly, partly because his would-be boss turns out to be an old flame (Maggie Gyllenhaal) who doubts he's grown up. There's some reason to believe her, since Cale (in the mold of most action heroes) is an absentee, divorced dad. It's an archetype defined by Bruce Willis in "Die Hard," a movie "White House Down" apes right

down to the wife-beater tank top. When the Capitol dome is detonated and the White House invaded, Cale is separated from his daughter and stumbles into the kidnapping of the president. From there, it's a series of chases through the handsome, recreated halls of the White House, where golden light filters in through venetian blinds but seemingly scant security measures exist.

Emmerich, the director of spectacles like "Independence Day" (a movie he references in "White House Down") and "2012," has made blowing up the White House something of a fetish, having already done it in both of those movies. It's a style of blockbuster that now feels dated, like a '90s kind of big-budget movie-making that depends on explosions, flashes of comedy and star charisma.

The charm of Tatum — toned but goofy — carries the film. Foxx, a more gifted comic actor, is left off-screen for large chunks. His president is a kind of liberal fantasy version of Barack Obama, boldly removing all troops from the Middle East, thereby sparking the fury of the Beltway's white power players.

If "White House Down" had pushed the farce further, Emmerich's overlong romp could have been something special. But the comedy in James Vanderbilt's screenplay only comes in spurts.

Many of its biggest laughs don't come when they're cued up, but at the film's attempts at emotion. □

## Devo drummer Alan Myers dies of brain cancer

The Associated Press

Alan Myers, the former longtime drummer for the band Devo, best known for "Whip It," has died after a battle with brain cancer. He was 58. Myers died Monday in Los Angeles, where he lived, Devo spokesman Michael Pilmer said Wednesday. Myers was the band's drummer from 1976 to 1985 during Devo's heyday. The group was formed in Akron, Ohio, in the early 70s by Mark Mothersbaugh and Gerald Casale, and introduced themselves to the world in 1977 by making a spastic version of the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction." Casale told The Associated Press on Wednesday that without Myers, Devo never would have reached the heights it did, calling him the best drummer he has

ever played with.

"We were mostly in basements and garages writ-

ing songs. It was Alan that brought everything to life," Casale said. "That was the



In this 1978 photo, the band Devo, from left, Mark Mothersbaugh, Bob Mothersbaugh, kneeling, Jerry Casale, Bob Casale and Alan Myers pose for a photo. Devo spokesman Michael Pilmer confirmed Wednesday, June 26, 2013, that drummer Alan Myers died Monday, June 24, after a battle with brain cancer in Los Angeles. He was 58.

(AP Photo/Devo Inc., Janet Macoska)

catalyst where everything clicked."

He called Myers "the human metronome," referring to the time-marking device. "People watching him thought we were using a drum machine," Casale said. "Nobody had ever drummed like that."

Casale described meeting and playing with Myers for the first time in 1976. After their first session ended, Casale — who had been facing away from Myers — turned around to see the drummer standing on one leg with his eyes closed, practicing the meditative Chinese martial art of Tai Chi. "I thought, 'Man, this guy really is Devo. He fits right in,'" Casale said, adding that Tai Chi was one of the drummer's greatest passions. □



# Syria Scorecard



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
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**ISTANBUL** - If you look at it from 30,000 feet, what we're actually dealing with in the Middle East today are the long-delayed consequences of the end of the Ottoman Empire. When the Ottoman Empire collapsed as a result of its defeat in World War I, the colonial powers Britain and France were right there, for their own interests, to impose their own order on the diverse tribes, sects and religions that make up the Arab East. When the British and French left after World War II, they handed power, in many cases, to monarchs, who, in many cases, gave way to generals, who, in all cases, kept their diverse populations in line with iron fists. But, now, the Ottomans are gone, the colonial powers are gone and even the iron-fisted generals are gone. In Tunisia, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Libya, all that's left is a single question: Can the people in these countries who for so long have been governed vertically - from the top down - now govern themselves horizontally by writing their own social contracts for how to live together as equal citizens with regular rotations in power and without iron fists from above. When President Barack Obama says he plans to arm the anti-Bashar Assad rebels in Syria, this is the vortex into which he is inserting America. It is still unclear to me where the president is going with Syria, but I see only three possible strategies: the realist, the idealist and the God-I-hope-we-are-lucky approaches.

The realist says: I really don't see any hope for building a unified, multisectarian, democratic Syria - not after two years of civil war and more than 90,000 dead. The U.S. goal should simply be to arm the rebels enough so they can hurt and enmesh in a quagmire two of America's main regional foes - Hezbollah and Iran - and deny them an easy victory with Assad in Syria. In the long run, though, this strategy most likely would lead to the partition of Syria into an Alawite zone along the coast, a Kurdish zone in the northeast and a Sunni zone in the rest. The Sunni zone, though, would almost certainly be embroiled in a power struggle between secular Sunnis, whom we'd support, and various Islamist Sunnis, financed by mosques, charities and governments in the Arab gulf. While partition might actually be the most stable and humanitarian long-term option - breaking Syria into smaller units capable of self-governance - getting there would be ugly, and the Sunni Muslim chunk could easily end up dominated by jihadists, not "our guys."

The idealist approach argues that if our goal is a unified, multisectarian, democratic Syria, then simply arming the "good rebels" would not be sufficient to get there. We (or NATO) would have to have boots on the ground to help them topple Assad and then stay for years to keep the warring parties from murdering each other, to suppress the violent extremists in each community and to help the moderates write and implement a new social contract for how to live together. Those who want a unified, multisectarian and democratic Syria, a noble goal, need to be honest about what it would take to achieve that from where we are now. It would take another Iraq-scale intervention - something we did not do well, and which very few Americans would vote to repeat.

Some would say that we don't need boots on the ground, as proved by the Libyan intervention. Really? Libya is an example of the let's-send-them-some-arms-and-hope-we-get-lucky approach. Let's remove the Gadhafi regime from the air, arm the rebels on the ground and then hope they come together and produce a decent, pluralistic democracy. So far, we've not been very lucky. Our debate about Libya has been focused entirely on the sacking of our facility in Benghazi, but the proper debate should be about why there was - and remains - such a security vacuum in eastern Libya in the first place. The transition government has not been strong enough to bring order to Libya, and the instability there has metastasized. As Reuters reported from Benghazi on Wednesday, "Libya remains anarchic and awash with weapons nearly two years after" Moammar Gadhafi was toppled. The good news is that moderate Libyans have pushed back against their lawless tribal and jihadist militias, but without outside help it is an uphill struggle. In Syria, we would be hoping that, with just small arms, the rebels could at least fight Assad & Friends to a stalemate so the regime would agree to negotiate Assad's departure. Even if by some miracle that were to happen, so much more blood would be spilled along the way that we would still need an international peacekeeping force to referee any post-Assad power-sharing deal. All volunteers, please raise your hand.

Those are the options as I see it. None feel very good because those in Syria who are truly fighting for a democratic outcome are incredibly brave, but weak and divided. Fighting for democratic values - rather than for family, sect, tribe or Shariah - is still a new thing for these societies. Those who are fighting for a sectarian or Islamist outcome, though, are full of energy and well financed. That's why staying out guarantees that only more bad things will happen, but going in, big or small, would not guarantee success. And that's why I'd like to hear which option Obama is pursuing and why he thinks it would succeed. □



## Zombie Scare With Zombie Chaser



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2013 New York Times - I love my monsters, sacred or straight up.

I'm not as fond of zombies as I am of vampires. Vampires are urbane shape-shifters, sophisticated, seductive and nattily dressed.

Unlike vampires, their undead brethren, zombies don't age well. Their muscle tone is shot. The rotting ghouls just groan and lumber about, except for the most highly evolved, who precede a meal with a succinct request: "Brains!"

But this weekend, zombies were kicking off the summer movie season. So naturally, I was at the first showing of "World War Z," where Brad Pitt fights an army of crepuscular demons to save the world - and without even having Angie's help.

One minute Pitt's character, a former U.N. investigator, is making pancakes for his family, and the next, twitching zombies are dropping out of the sky onto his car. After decades of zombies who lurched like Frankenstein's monster, Hollywood has finally realized the monsters are scarier if they are fast enough to actually catch someone. The ones in "World War Z" dart about like velociraptors, and they love sinking their teeth into humans, as one soldier puts it, "like fat kids love Twix."

Vampires have always been rich fodder for metaphors, standing in for everything from bloodthirsty capitalism to AIDS

to teenage desire.

Max Brooks, the son of Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft, who wrote the book the movie is based on, told The Times that his zombies were proxies for everything scary that has happened since 2001: 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, Katrina, anthrax letters, global warming, global financial meltdown, bird flu, swine flu and SARS.

The anxiety that we may have doomed ourselves and our planet through our own heedlessness pervades the culture. But the metaphor about the broken global system is less vivid than the metaphor about the broken Hollywood system. Before Pitt could save the planet, he had to save his movie, a feat on which a fortune was spent. People always want monsters to have a larger meaning, but in this case, the larger meaning is about the monstrous waste of money and the dearth of creativity in Hollywood.

The last 40 minutes of the movie had to be rewritten and reshot, and the ending still isn't fixed. The \$190 million 3-D, CGI-enhanced spectacle is kind of fun, but it isn't a classic of the genre, like George Romero's 1968 "Night of the Living Dead," Val Lewton's 1943 "I Walked With a Zombie," and the 1932 "White Zombie," the first full-length zombie feature, with Bela Lugosi playing the evil voodoo master of Haiti, Murder Legendre. Pitt just seems happy that the blockbuster is not as dreadful as it was when he saw the first cut. "It was pretty rank," he told USA Today.

In the movie, Washington gets wiped out quickly, of course, because the politicians can't even come to an agreement on survival. The zombies seem to enjoy chowing down on the creaky joints of the Joint Chiefs. It seemed that no one had read the real-life Centers for Disease Control and Prevention blog called "Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse."

"You may laugh now," wrote Dr. Ali S. Khan, the director of the CDC Office of Public

Health Preparedness and Response, "but when it happens you'll be happy you read this, and hey, maybe you'll even learn a thing or two about how to prepare for a real emergency."

The CDC recommended a kit including water (one does get dehydrated from running away from these speedy zombies), nonperishable food, medications, knives, duct tape, a battery-powered radio and first-aid supplies. "Although you're a goner if a zombie bites you," Khan noted, "you can use these supplies to treat basic cuts and lacerations that you might get during a tornado or hurricane."

In the movie, the two smartest countries turn out to be Israel and, less predictably, North Korea. The Israelis erect a Great Wall that protects them until the zombies learn teamwork and make a nonhuman pyramid to scale the wall.

In a crisis, tyranny has its benefits. The North Korean dictator orders that all 24 million citizens have their teeth pulled within 24 hours so that humans who turn into zombies can't infect anyone by biting.

A French military pilot, no doubt trying to abide by his country's 35-hour workweek, flies off, leaving Pitt stranded with Israeli zombies.

If the movie scares you, you can always calm down with a zombie, the paralyzing rum concoction invented at Don the Beachcomber's bar in Hollywood. With the recipe a deep, dark secret, the drink was so popular that the tiki bar got nicknamed "the Zombie Palace."

Ava Gardner, who had many nightcaps at the bar when she was a teenager dating Mickey Rooney, revealed the ingredients to the British journalist Peter Evans: "Bacardi, dark rum, light rum, pineapple juice, lime juice, apricot brandy, orange juice, a sprig of mint and a cherry."

But, she advised, the secret of a good zombie is this: "Hold the mint and the cherry." □





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